

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, July 16, 2015

Heated Debate



President Barack Obama answers questions about the Iran nuclear deal during a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, July 15, 2015. The president vigorously defended the nuclear deal with Iran, casting the historic accord as the only possibility to avert a nuclear arms race in the Middle East and reduce the chances of war.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Obama Vigorously Challenges Critics of Iran Deal

JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vigorously challenging his critics, President Barack Obama launched an aggressive and detailed defense of a landmark Iranian nuclear accord Wednes-

day, rejecting the idea that it leaves Tehran on the brink of a bomb and arguing the only alternative to the diplomatic deal is war. The president spoke during a lengthy news conference one day after Iran, the U.S. and five other world pow-

ers finalized a historic, yearlong agreement to curb Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for billions of dollars in sanctions relief. Opposition to the deal has been fierce, both in Washington and Israel. Sunni Arab rivals of Shiite

Iran also expressed concerns.

"Either the issue of Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon is resolved diplomatically through a negotiation or it's resolved through force, through war," Obama said. "Those are the options."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, perhaps the fiercest critic of Obama's overtures to Iran, showed no sign he could be persuaded to even tolerate the agreement.

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Obama Challenges Critics of Iran Deal

Continued from front

In remarks to Israel's parliament, Netanyahu said he was not bound by the terms of the deal and could still take military action against Iran. Netanyahu sees Iran's suspected pursuit of a nuclear weapon as a threat to Israel's existence.

In Congress, resistance comes not only from Republicans, but also Obama's own Democratic

with a longtime American foe could resolve one of the world's most pressing security challenges. The importance of the deal to Obama was evident Wednesday, both in his detailed knowledge of its technical provisions and his insistence that no critique go unanswered. An hour into the East Room news conference, Obama asked if reporters had other questions about Iran

Middle East or its detention of several American citizens, though some U.S. officials hold out hope it could eventually lead Tehran to reassess its role in the world. Obama, however, outlined a narrower ambition, saying the deal should be judged solely on whether it stops Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. As to whether the agreement might change Iran's other behavior, he said, "We're



President Barack Obama answers questions about the Iran nuclear deal during a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, July 15, 2015. The president defended his high-stakes nuclear accord with Iran as a sign of American leadership that will make the world safer.

Party. Vice President Joe Biden spent the morning on Capitol Hill meeting privately with House Democrats, telling reporters as he left that he was confident they would get behind a deal.

The president said he welcomed a "robust" debate with Congress, but showed little patience for what he cast as politically motivated opposition. Lawmakers can't block the nuclear deal, but they can try to undermine it by insisting U.S. sanctions stay in place.

In Tehran, Iranians took to the streets to celebrate the accord, and even Iran's hard-liners offered only mild criticism — a far cry from the outspoken opposition that the White House had feared.

The nuclear accord has become a centerpiece of Obama's foreign policy, a high-stakes gamble that diplomatic engagement

— a highly unusual inquiry from a president who is rarely so freewheeling in his exchanges with the press. He pulled a piece of paper out of his pocket, saying he had "made notes" about the main criticisms of the deal and wanted to ensure each had been addressed.

The accord requires Iran to dismantle key elements of its nuclear program, lower its uranium enrichment levels, and give up thousands of centrifuges. International inspectors will have access to Iran's declared nuclear facilities, but must request visits to Iran's military sites, access that isn't guaranteed. If Iran abides by the parameters, it will receive billions of dollars in relief from crippling international sanctions that have badly damaged the country's economy.

The deal does nothing to address Iran's broader support for terrorism in the

not betting on it." The president also sharply rebuffed a suggestion that he was content to let American detainees languish in Iran while he celebrated a deal. "That's nonsense," he said, adding that Iran would have taken advantage of any U.S. effort to link the nuclear accord to the release of U.S. citizens.

Showing a command of technical nuclear issues, Obama spent much of the news conference trying to knock down criticisms of the deal point by point. To those who argue sanctions relief will leave Iran flush with cash to fund terrorism, Obama said Tehran is already backing Hezbollah and other groups on the cheap. He noted that the Iranian government is under pressure from citizens to use any influx of international funds to improve the country's struggling economy. □

Netanyahu criticizes Iran deal; his rival to lobby US

DANIEL ESTRIN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stepped up his criticism Wednesday of the U.S.-led nuclear deal with Iran, warning that Israel has a "great and mighty" strength to defend itself.

Netanyahu's war of words came as his political rival, Isaac Herzog, announced he would go to the U.S. to lobby for a compensation package to insure Israel's military advantage in the region.

Herzog's trip reflects the broad opposition to the deal in Israel, where most politicians fear the deal will fail to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons while strengthening the Islamic Republic's support for Israel's staunchest enemies.

Addressing parliament, Netanyahu reiterated that Israel was not bound by the deal and said Israel would continue to oppose it.

"All the more so, we will reserve our right to defend ourselves against all of our enemies," he said. "We have strength, and it is great and mighty."

Despite Netanyahu's tough rhetoric, Israel's options appear limited, given the wide international support for Tuesday's agreement.

Israel's first course of action is expected to be a lobbying effort in the U.S. Congress ahead of a review of the deal. But even there, its influence will be limited since President Barack Obama does not need congressional approval.

The Republican-led Congress will instead likely try to derail the deal by passing new sanctions or preventing Obama from lifting existing sanctions — the key incentive for Iran to comply with the deal. Obama has said he would veto any resolutions undermining the deal.

In the first sign of Israeli diplomatic action, Herzog

soon will travel to Washington.

"We must enter dialogue with our big ally, the U.S.," Herzog said in parliament. In a videotaped statement posted on his Facebook page, Herzog said he had spoken with officials of pro-Israel lobbying group AIPAC and other U.S. groups, and would be headed to the U.S. "to ask that Israel gets a security umbrella and a series of steps to allow Israel to maintain its advantage in the region due to the new reality coming out of the deal."

Herzog has criticized Netanyahu over the deal, saying the Israeli leader unnecessarily antagonized the U.S. and other allies during negotiations. In March, Netanyahu voiced his opposition to the emerging deal in a speech to the U.S. Congress that enraged the White House.

But in a meeting with Netanyahu late Tuesday, Herzog promised "to do everything for the security of Israel" in light of the Iranian deal, according to a statement from Netanyahu's office.

"Our national security is not a matter of dispute," Netanyahu's office quoted Herzog as saying.

Israeli politicians say the deal won't block Iran from building nuclear weapons. They also say that by easing sanctions, Iran will gain access to tens of billions of dollars, some of which could be funneled to militant anti-Israel groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. Israeli leaders say a nuclear Iran is an existential threat to Israel because Iranian leaders have called for Israel's destruction.

"Not everyone has learned the lessons of history. Today, the world powers have fallen in a trap of smiles set by the tyrannical Iranian regime," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu said he reviewed the deal at night, and that it includes "absurd things." □



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Trump campaign sets his personal fortune at \$10 billion

JEFF HORWITZ

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump filed financial documents with federal campaign regulators on Wednesday and set his personal fortune at more than \$10 billion with an annual income of more than \$362 million.

Trump is relying almost exclusively on his personal wealth to fund his White House bid. He has already lent his campaign \$1.8 million, according to federal documents he filed Wednesday. His fortune could help maintain his status as a major player in the Republican presidential primary, much to the dismay of party officials who worry that his hardline immigration statements could alienate Hispanic voters.

Members of his staff had said that Trump would release the financial documents themselves, but they issued only a press release that announced the filing and included a few financial details. It provided little information about how he calculated his net worth. The \$10 billion figure — up nearly 15 percent since the previous year, by Trump's calculation — would make him the wealthiest person ever to run for president, far surpassing previous magnates like Ross Perot, business heirs like Steve Forbes or private-equity investors



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump smiles for a photographer before he addresses members of the City Club of Chicago, in Chicago. As other presidential candidates fight to raise money, Trump is reminding everyone he's already got a lot of it. Trump filed financial documents with federal campaign regulators on Wednesday and set his personal fortune at more than \$10 billion with an annual income of more than \$362 million.

(AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast, File)

like Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee.

Among the sources of Trump's income has been \$214 million in payments from NBC related to 14 seasons of the business reality television show "The Apprentice." NBC recently cut its ties with Trump following his controversial remarks about Mexican immigrants. Filing a personal financial disclosure with the Federal Election Commission is one

of the requirements, set by the hosts, to participate in next month's televised Republican debate.

Trump's statement Wednesday noted that a hypothetical Trump building worth \$1.5 billion would be reported as simply worth in excess of \$50 million on the federal forms, which offer broad ranges for asset values.

Previous reviews of Trump's real estate holdings by both Forbes Magazine and com-

mercial real estate trade publication The Real Deal did not identify any single property with a valuation in excess of \$1 billion.

His campaign noted that Trump held stakes in almost 500 business entities and said the federal forms are "not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth."

Trump also valued his personal brand and marketing deals at \$3.3 billion when

he announced his candidacy.

Forbes Magazine, however, valued his brand at just \$125 million. And that was before Trump's comments about Mexican immigrants cost him business partnerships with companies such as Macy's and Univision, which experts on brand valuation said have at least temporarily tarnished the value of his name in corporate sponsorship deals. □



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US congressman wants investigation into abortion video

ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The searing political conflict in the U.S. over abortion flared anew Wednesday as congressional Republicans said they will investigate whether Planned Parenthood is selling organs from aborted fetuses.

The leader of the House, Speaker John Boehner, called for committees to examine the matter and said President Barack Obama should condemn and end the practice.

The Republican offensive came a day after an anti-abortion group circulated a video it made secretly showing a Planned Parenthood official discussing the disposal of body parts from aborted fetuses.

"When an organization monetizes an unborn child — and with the cavalier attitude portrayed in this horrific video — we must all act," Boehner said in a brief written statement. He said Obama and Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell should "de-

ounce, and stop, these gruesome practices."

gally helps women who want to make not-for-profit

science, and says the video was heavily edited.



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, speaks with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington. The searing political conflict over abortion flared anew Wednesday as congressional Republicans said they will investigate whether Planned Parenthood is selling organs from aborted fetuses. Boehner called for committees to examine the matter and said President Barack Obama should condemn and end the practice.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

Planned Parenthood, which provides abortions and other reproductive health services, says it le-

donations of their fetus' organs for scientific research. It says it makes no money by donating the organs to

"These outrageous claims are flat-out untrue, but that doesn't matter to politicians with a longstand-

ing political agenda to ban abortion and defund Planned Parenthood," Planned Parenthood spokesman Eric Ferrero said Wednesday. He said women donating fetal tissue for research "should be honored, not attacked and demeaned."

Minutes after Boehner released his statement, the House Energy and Commerce Committee said it would investigate the issue and "get to the bottom of this appalling situation." The House Judiciary Committee plans a review, too. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, a top Democrat on the Judiciary panel, called the upcoming investigations "another witch hunt" by Republicans

Commercial sale of human fetal tissue is illegal under federal law. Noncommercial tissue donation is allowed if the woman undergoing an abortion gives her consent.

Ferrero said Planned Parenthood guidelines for such procedures are carried out "just like other high-quality health care providers — with full, appropriate consent from patients, under the highest ethical and legal standards, and with no financial benefit for the patient or Planned Parenthood." By late afternoon, the White House had not responded to requests for comment.

On Tuesday, the video's release was a factor as Republican leaders postponed a House vote on a bill creating a commemorative coin aimed at raising money for breast cancer research. Conservative lawmakers were angered because one of the groups that would have received the research money is the Susan G. Komen breast cancer foundation. □

Gambino associate arrested in alleged scrap scam

MARK GILLISPIE

Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — A reputed member of the Gambino crime family who was once married to John Gotti's daughter was arrested Wednesday over a \$3 million scam involving stolen cars and scrap metal, authorities said.

Carmine "The Bull" Agnello, 55, was arrested at a scrap yard he's been operating in southeast Cleveland after his release from federal prison in 2008. Police said Agnello would buy stolen cars, fill them with sand to add weight and would sell

the compacted vehicles to an unidentified metal processing company. Agnello is accused of bribing employees at the processing company to ignore the extra weight that increased the price paid for the compacted vehicles.

Cleveland police Deputy Chief Ed Tomba said at a news conference on Wednesday that Agnello married a woman from the Cleveland area after prison and lives in the village of Bentleyville, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southeast of Cleveland. The investigation into Agnello's activi-

ties began after Cleveland police noticed a spike in auto thefts and realized that many of the vehicles weren't being recovered as usual, Tomba said.

Detectives conducted searches at three Cleveland scrap yards and Agnello's upscale home, seizing \$45,000 in cash and guns, authorities said. Because he's a convicted felon, Agnello is not allowed to own firearms.

Agnello is expected to be charged with theft, money laundering, conspiracy, drugging animals before competition, cruelty

to animals and corrupting sports, according to a news release. Tomba said at the news conference that Agnello is accused of injecting race horses with drugs but would not provide further details.

No attorney information for Agnello was immediately available.

A detective from the New York Police Department's organized crime division assisted Cleveland police with the 18-month investigation. Tomba and others said traditional organized crime lost its foothold in Cleveland years ago. □

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Construction company cited in Ohio overpass collapse

LISA CORNWELL

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — A company in charge of demolishing a highway overpass that collapsed and killed a construction worker in January has been cited for two safety violations and fined \$14,000, a federal agency said Wednesday. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued the citations and fine against Columbus-based Kokosing Construction Co. Inc., which agreed to the penalties on Wednesday, OSHA spokesman Scott Allen said. Kokosing's chief executive officer said Wednesday that the company made an engineering mistake that may have contributed to the collapse of the bridge and subsequent death of the worker. "We have already taken steps to make sure a tragedy like this never happens again," CEO Brian Burgett said in a statement. He said Kokosing has hired an outside engineering firm to reinforce the company's procedures and "check and double-check our demolition plans" and has thoroughly reviewed its safety procedures.

The Jan. 19 collapse during demolition work to remove an Interstate 75 ramp bridge just north of downtown Cincinnati killed Brandon Carl. The body of the 35-year-old from Augusta, Kentucky, was recovered from the rubble hours later. "This man and father of four died in a preventable workplace incident," OSHA Area Director Ken Montgomery said in a statement. "His family will never recover from that loss and the loss of livelihood." Burgett said, "Our friend and co-worker Brandon Carl and his family will al-



This January, 2015 photo shows work continuing in the aftermath of the bridge collapse on Interstate 75, in Cincinnati. Federal officials have cited a company in charge of demolishing a highway overpass that collapsed and killed a construction worker for two safety violations and fined it \$14,000.

(Liz Dufour/The Cincinnati Enquirer via AP)

ways be in our thoughts."

A Michigan truck driver traveling on I-75 was injured in the late-night collapse when the front of his vehicle was crushed by falling concrete and other debris. The citations were for what OSHA terms "serious" violations. One citation says employees were "exposed to crushing and/or struck by hazards" because the bridge deck where an excavator was performing demolition operations wasn't sufficiently strong to support the equipment. The second says bridge demolition had resumed after it was halted earlier when some uplift was found in a structural steel beam.

"The employer allowed employees to continue demolition operations without ensuring the corrective methods applied were effective in preventing collapse of the structure," according to the citation. □

3 dead, 5 missing in Kentucky flash floods

FLAT GAP, Kentucky (AP)

— Knee-deep mud and challenging geography were hampering rescue teams Wednesday as they searched for six people who disappeared during a flash flood that killed three in the state of Kentucky. Johnson County Coroner J.R. Frisby confirmed that a third body was found Wednesday afternoon in the same general region of the two other bodies uncovered Tuesday. Crews were combing the wooded, mountainous terrain, hampered by swarming mosquitoes, soupy humidity and mud. Rescue teams were going door-to-door to try to find the missing as desperate families waited for word. "It just wears your legs out to walk," said Gary



Robbie Taylor, left, stares at the swollen creek which destroyed the trailer he shares with his girlfriend, Markita Trent, right, after deadly flooding in Flat Gap, Ky. Flash floods in northern Johnson County outside of Paintsville destroyed homes and vehicles and residents were reported missing a day after the floods.

(AP Photo/David Stephenson)

McClure, the local emergency management director. "You walk from here to there in that mud and

you're ready to sit down. It just pulls you down." □

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Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, July 15, 2015, before the House Financial Services Committee hearing on monetary policy and the state of the economy.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Yellen defends policies to lawmakers

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said Wednesday she is encouraged by signs that the economy is reviving after a brutal winter. And if the improvements stay on track, the Fed will likely start raising interest rates later this year.

Yellen, however, downplayed the importance of the timing of the first rate hike as she delivered the Fed's mid-year economic outlook to Congress. Interest rates will remain at very low levels "for quite some time after the first increase," she said.

Yellen spent three hours Wednesday addressing the House Financial Services Committee in the first of two days of testimony. While the session began with her optimistic assessment of the economy, it turned contentious at times

during the question-and-answer period as lawmakers criticized everything from the Fed's stance on interest rates to its accountability and power.

Anticipating tough questions from Republicans, Yellen outlined in her prepared remarks the steps the central bank has taken in recent years to increase transparency. She said the Fed holds press conferences after four of its eight meetings each year and updates its economic forecasts more frequently.

"The Federal Reserve ranks among the most transparent central banks," Yellen said.

But many GOP lawmakers were less than satisfied. They urged her to consider supporting changes in how the Fed operates, such as adopting a rule that would link rate hikes to changes in economic growth and inflation. Committee Chair-

man Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, said a simple rule would make the Fed more predictable and understandable and help an economy "mired in lackluster, halting economic growth."

Yellen strongly rejected the idea.

"There is not a central bank in the world that follows a rule that would rely on only two variables," she said.

The Fed's benchmark rate has been at a record low near zero since December 2008. That has translated to historically low borrowing rates for consumers and businesses.

Many economists peg September for a rate liftoff, but they see at most only two quarter-point moves this year.

"If the economy evolves as we expect, economic conditions likely would make it appropriate at some point this year to raise the federal funds target," Yellen said. □

An Employee or a contractor? Labor sets out to clarify rules

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — When are workers employees? When are they contractors?

The Labor Department issued new guidance Wednesday intended to help companies answer that increasingly fraught question. The issue has taken on greater urgency with the growth of sharing-economy firms such as Uber and TaskRabbit, which increasingly rely on independent workers, often for short-term projects. The guidance could make it harder for companies to use contractors, labor law experts say. It comes amid a wave of lawsuits against companies such as FedEx, ride-hailing service Lyft and online cleaning service provider Handy, brought by workers who say they should have been treated as employees rather than contractors.

"The pendulum is swinging away from classifying workers as contractors and toward employees," said Michael Droke, an employment law partner at Dorsey and Whitney. "Employers should be more cautious in identifying workers as contractors."

Labor unions and activists have for years argued that companies in many industries — construction, hotels and janitorial services, among others — have sought to hold down labor costs by calling workers independent contractors. Contractors aren't eligible for overtime pay, unemployment insurance or workers' compensation. They typically pay all their Social Security taxes, compared with employees, who split that cost with employers. The issue has also emerged in the early stages of the presidential campaign, after Hillary Clinton promised earlier this week to "crack down" on companies that wrongly classify workers as contractors. She praised the "gig economy" for "creating exciting opportunities" but also said it is "raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future."

The guidelines don't represent new regulations, but clarify how Labor officials think companies and courts should interpret the rules.

The move comes as the department steps up its enforcement of classification rules. Last year, it forced companies to pay \$79 million in back wages to 109,000 workers in the janitorial, temporary help, food services, day care and hotel industries.

The Economic Policy Institute, a liberal think-tank, estimates that 10 percent to 20 percent of employers misclassify at least one worker.

The department's directive emphasizes that a worker who is "economically dependent" on the employer should be treated as an employee. By contrast, a worker must be in business for themselves to be an independent contractor. □

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US Financial Front:

Egg prices blowing up in America because of avian flu

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eggs are getting much more expensive — by the dozen and otherwise.

The outbreak of avian flu caused the cost of eggs to nearly double last month for producers. Wholesale prices for chicken eggs jumped 84.5 percent in June, the Labor Department said Wednesday.

The spike comes amid otherwise tame inflation across the rest of the economy. The producer price index, which measures the costs of goods and services before they reach consumers, increased 0.4 percent in June.

Over the past 12 months, producer prices have actually fallen 0.7 percent due to lower oil and gasoline costs. Wholesale gas prices rose 4.3 percent last month but are down 30.3 percent from a year ago, keeping inflation firmly in check.

A surprising amount of the increase in producer prices last month came from eggs, which make up an extremely small share of the broader index but have soared in price since April.

"When they're rising at a 58,000 percent annualized rate, as they have the past two months, the impact is material," said Ted Wieseman, an analyst at Morgan Stanley who estimates that eggs alone account for nearly a fifth of the total 0.4 percent increase in producer prices last month.

Wholesale chicken egg prices recorded the largest increase since the government began tracking the costs in 1937. More than

49 million chickens and turkeys died or were euthanized in 15 states this spring as the flu virus spread from the Pacific Northwest into Midwest farms.

The loss of those birds has cut into the supply of eggs, provoking a shortage that should begin to cause higher egg prices at grocery stores, Wieseman said.

Still, the producer price index showed that overall inflation remains mild.

Core prices, which exclude energy and food, rose 0.3 percent in June.

Relatively cheap oil has limited inflation across much of the U.S. economy. The cost of Brent crude oil in the markets barely budged for much of June, after climbing at the start of May to nearly \$68 a barrel.

Gasoline prices have stayed relatively flat so far in July, dropping to a national average of \$2.78 a gallon from \$2.80 a month ago, according to AAA. Average retail gas prices have fallen nearly 23 percent over the past 12 months.

Federal Reserve officials are monitoring measures of inflation as they weigh whether to raise a key short-term interest rate. They have kept the federal funds rate at a record low near zero for more than six years, making it cheaper to borrow, spend and invest in ways that aid economic growth.

Fed officials have said they want to be "reasonably confident" that inflation is headed toward their 2 percent target, which would signal a stronger economy. □



Butcher Jorge Gonzalez weighs steaks at a local grocery store in the Little Havana area of Miami. The Labor Department reports on U.S. producer price inflation in June on Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

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Greek lawmakers pass austerity bill despite dissent



An anti-austerity protester throws a bottle at riot police in Athens, Wednesday, July 15, 2015.
(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

ELENA BECATOROS

DEREK GATOPoulos

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greek lawmakers voted overwhelmingly early Thursday to approve a harsh

austerity bill demanded by bailout creditors, despite significant dissent from members of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' left-wing party.

The bill has fueled anger

in the governing Syriza party and led to a revolt by party members against the prime minister, who has insisted the deal forged after a marathon weekend eurozone summit was the

best he could do to prevent Greece from catastrophically crashing out of Europe's joint currency.

The bill, which imposes sweeping tax hikes and spending cuts, was approved with 229 votes in favor, 64 against and six abstentions — and with the support of three pro-European opposition parties.

Prominent Syriza party members were among the 38 dissenters, including Energy Minister Panagiotis Lafazanis and former finance minister Yanis Varoufakis, who many blame for exacerbating tensions with Greece's creditors with his abrasive style during five months of tortured negotiations.

The vote came after an anti-austerity demonstration by about 12,000 protesters outside parliament degenerated into violence as the debate was getting underway Wednesday night. Riot police battled youths who hurled petrol bombs for about an hour before the clashes died down.

The bill was the first step Greece must take in order to begin negotiations with creditors on a new bailout — its third in five years — of about 85 billion euros (\$93 billion) in loans over three years.

Dissenters argued that Greeks could not face any further cuts after six years of recession that saw poverty and unemployment skyrocket and wiped out a quarter of the country's economy.

Tsipras has been battling all week to persuade party hard-liners to back the deal. He has acknowledged the agreement reached with creditors was far from what he wanted and trampled on his pre-election promises of repealing austerity, but insisted the alternative would have been far worse for the country.

"We had a very specific choice: A deal we largely disagreed with, or a chaotic default," he told parliament ahead of the vote. Tsipras had urged Syriza members to back the bill despite having urged voters to reject earlier, milder creditor demands in a July

5 referendum. Greeks voted overwhelmingly to reject those proposals.

Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos, who took over from Varoufakis the day after the referendum, said the deal Greece reached with its creditors on Monday was the only possible choice.

"I must tell you, that Monday morning at 9:30, it was the most difficult day of my life. It was a decision that will weigh on me for the rest of my life," Tsakalotos said. "I don't know if we did the right thing. But I know we did something with the sense that we had no choice. Nothing was certain and nothing is," he told parliament.

High-ranking dissenters included Alternate Finance Minister Nadia Valavani, who resigned from her post earlier Wednesday, saying she could not vote in favor of the bill.

In a letter sent to Tsipras on Monday and released by the finance ministry Wednesday, Valavani said she believed "dominant circles in Germany" were intent on "the full humiliation of the government and the country."

Parliament speaker Zoe Konstantopoulou, a prominent Syriza member, slammed the deal as a product of blackmail, calling it a "crime against humanity" and "social genocide."

Thursday's vote came after more than two weeks of capital controls, with Greek banks and the stock exchange shut since June 29 and ATM cash withdrawals limited to 60 euros per day. With its banks dangerously low on liquidity and the state practically out of cash, Greece desperately needs funds. It faces a Monday deadline to repay 4.2 billion euros (\$4.6 billion) to the European Central Bank, and is also in arrears on 2 billion euros to the IMF. Negotiations on the new bailout will take an estimated four weeks, leaving European finance ministers scrambling to find ways to get Athens some money sooner. □



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In Arab world, worries that deal will boost Iran's power

ADAM SCHRECK

LEE KEATH

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The nuclear deal with Iran was met with a profound wariness in the Arab world, where concerns are widespread that the easing of its international isolation could tip the already bloody contest for power in the region toward Shiite-led Tehran.

Arab countries have deep fears of Iran gaining a nuclear weapon, and some have been skeptical that a deal will prevent that from happening. But equally high for key Sunni-dominated Gulf allies of the United States is the worry that a deal gives Iran the means — through an economic windfall — and an implicit green light to push influence in the region.

The Arab world has been polarized for years in a worsening proxy conflict between Iran and Gulf powers, particularly Saudi Arabia, fueling Sunni-Shiite tensions and stoking wars. In Syria, Iran's support has ensured the survival of President Bashar Assad against Sunni rebels backed by Gulf nations in a devastating civil war, now in its fifth year. Yemen has been torn apart this year as Saudi Arabia, leading a coalition air campaign, has tried to help fend off Shiite rebels supported by Tehran. In Iraq, Saudi Arabia has opposed the growing power of Iran even since the 2003 ouster of Saddam Hussein and the rise of a government led by Shiite politicians close to Iran.

"Deal or no deal, tension in the region is not going to go away," said Abdulkhaleq Abdullah, a professor of political science at United Arab Emirates University. "If Iran is bent on acting as



This photo shows the heavy water nuclear facility near Arak, Iran. The nuclear deal with Iran was met with a profound wariness in the Arab world, where concerns are widespread that the easing of its international isolation could tip the already bloody contest for power in the region toward Shiite-led Tehran.

(AP Photo/ISNA, Hamid Foroutan)

a hegemon, as a regional power, I think we are in for some difficult times."

Saudi Arabia issued a pointed warning, saying Iran must use any economic gains from the lifting of sanctions to improve the lives of Iranians, "rather than using them to cause turmoil in the region, a matter that will meet a decisive reaction from the nations of the region," in a statement carried on the state news agency late Tuesday. Other Gulf monarchies sought to show some cautious optimism. The president of the United Arab Emirates, which has long-standing trade ties to Iran, and the emir of Kuwait, who visited Tehran last year in an effort to improve relations, each sent congratulations to Iran and

expressed hope the agreement will contribute to regional security and stability. On the nuclear issue itself, Arab countries have shown skepticism that a deal would stop Iran from building a weapon. In its statement Tuesday, Saudi Arabia withheld judgment on the final accord, but underlined it always wanted an agreement that guarantees Iran cannot develop a bomb, includes a strict inspection mechanism for all sites — including military ones — and ensures a swift re-imposition of sanctions if Tehran violates the deal.

Saudi Arabia's former intelligence chief, Prince Turki al-Faisal, warned earlier this year that a deal might fuel a regional arms race. Egypt's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Badr Abdelat-

tie, said his country hopes the deal would be "a step toward a region free of nuclear weapons" — a project Egypt has been lobbying for in the United Nations for long, with its eyes on Israel's all but confirmed arsenal.

But foremost on the minds of Iran's opponents in the region was the worry that the deal strengthens its hand in the region's conflicts.

"This agreement, from our point of view, represents an indirect threat to Gulf and Arab interests and peace," said Tariq Al-Shammary, a Saudi analyst and president of the Council of Gulf International Relations.

Behind the scenes, he said, Gulf Arab countries will work to try and keep Iran isolated politically and

economically, he added, pointing out that Saudi Arabia in particular has already moved to improve ties with Russia, which is a strong ally of Iran.

Syrian rebels were alarmed, warning that now Iran will feel free to infuse even more cash and weapons to prop up Assad's overstretched army.

"This agreement translates into more barrel bombs, more massacres and more blood across Syria," said a rebel with the Islamic al-Jabha al-Shamiya faction in northern Syria who spoke on condition he be identified by his nom de guerre of Abu Yasser, for his own safety. Barrel bombs are the crude but destructive bombs dropped from Syrian military aircraft that have caused considerable civilian casualties.

He said an Iran at peace with the international community will feel "even more at ease" to implement its agenda across the region, including in Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

On the pro-government side in Syria, some had the same expectation. Bassem Mahfouz, a 54-year-old resident of the capital, Damascus, said he hoped Iran will now increase its support for Syria in the fight against "terrorism."

Assad was quick to congratulate Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani. In his cable addressed to Khamenei, Assad described the deal as "a great victory" achieved by Iran and a "historic turning point" in the history of Iran, the region and the world.

"We are quite assured that the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue, with greater momentum, supporting the just issues of nations," he said. □

Egypt army says it foils attack on road to Red Sea coast

MARAM MAZEN
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's armed forces said they foiled an attempted attack Wednesday on a military post on a highway linking Cairo with the Red Sea coast that was claimed by Islamic State affiliates.

The driver of a car carrying

500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) of dynamite refused to stop at the checkpoint, drawing fire from troops, the military said in a statement. The car went off the road and the driver was killed outside the checkpoint, according to the statement. The Islamic State affiliate in Egypt claimed responsibility

for the attack, saying that a suicide bomber intentionally blew himself up, killing several soldiers. The military denied the claim.

The authenticity of the claim couldn't be independently verified, though it was carried by Twitter accounts affiliated with the group. Egypt faces threats from

multiple insurgent factions, including the Islamic State affiliate in Sinai that the military says killed at least 17 soldiers in a July 1 assault there. Officials from several branches of Egypt's security forces previously told The Associated Press that that attack killed dozens more. On June 29, Prosecu-

tor General Hisham Barakat was assassinated in Cairo by a car bomb.

Attacks in Egypt are intensifying at a time that the economy is showing signs of recovery, following a period of economic and political instability since the 2011 uprising that toppled former President Hosni Mubarak. □

Afghan Taliban leader backs peace talks with Kabul officials

RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

The reclusive Afghan Taliban leader backs peace talks with the Kabul government, saying in a rare message Wednesday that the goal of these efforts is an "end to occupation" by foreign forces.

Mullah Mohammad Omar's message was released ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. In the statement, he also urged Muslim leaders of the world to unite and pledged to continue holy war, or jihad, until foreign troops leave Afghanistan.

He made no specific mention of the first face-to-face Kabul-Taliban talks that were hosted by Pakistan earlier this month. The talks, supervised by U.S. and Chinese representatives, were said to have made progress, with the two sides agreeing to work on confidence-building measures and hold more such meetings after Ramadan. The talks came after

several informal contacts between the Taliban and Afghan government representatives, most recently in Qatar and Norway.

the insurgents' political office in Qatar, which was specifically set up to work toward a peace deal. Also, there have been dif-

ferences among the Taliban over the talks in the past.

Wednesday's message appeared to be Mullah Omar's endorsement. "The objective behind our political endeavors as well as contacts and interactions with countries of the world and our own Afghans is to bring an end

as an insurgency battling NATO troops and Afghan security forces. After the war began, Mullah Omar went into hiding and has not been seen in public since. The United States has offered a reward of \$10 million for information leading to his capture.

Though the Taliban are divided among rival factions, Mullah Omar continues to enjoy the loyalty of many local figures. In the wake of the departure of NATO combat forces at the end of last year, the Taliban have stepped up attacks on Afghan troops, which are now in charge of security in the country. Some of the Afghan insurgents also recently have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group fighting in Syria and Iraq.

Mullah Omar made no reference to the Islamic State affiliates in Afghanistan or beyond but demanded that all in the "Muslim world maintain unity and fraternity among themselves and not allow internal differences to weaken their ranks." □



Afghanistan's National Army soldiers stand guard during a visit of Afghanistan's Chief Executive, Abdullah Abdullah, in a military camp, in Mazar-i Sharif, Afghanistan. The reclusive Afghan Taliban leader backs peace talks with the Kabul government, saying in a rare message Wednesday that the goal of these efforts is an "end to occupation" by foreign forces.

(AP Photo/Massoud Hossaini)

But during and immediately after the July 7 meeting near Islamabad, it was not clear whether the Taliban representatives who attended had the green light from Mullah Omar or

ferences among the Taliban over the talks in the past. Wednesday's message appeared to be Mullah Omar's endorsement. "The objective behind

to the occupation and to establish an independent Islamic system in our country," Mullah Omar said. Ousted from power by the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, the Taliban soon regrouped

Yemeni troops battle Shiite rebels in Aden neighborhoods

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANA, Yemen (AP) — Yemeni troops, backed by Saudi-led airstrikes, battled Shiite rebels Wednesday in neighborhoods they previously controlled in the southern port city of Aden, a day after they pushed them out of the local airport, military officials said. The offensive, closely coordinated with the Saudi-led coalition, is a serious blow to the Shiite rebels and al-

lied forces who have been trying to seize control of the strategic city since March. Houthi officials said they were taken by surprise by the new push. A senior military official said the troops involved have been trained in Saudi Arabia, a program that began about two months ago. He said the troops also received new equipment, including armored vehicles. The official said fighting intensified Wednesday in

Crater and Mualla, neighborhoods that house the presidential palace, government offices and ports. He spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing military operations.

Late Wednesday, exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi's office said he was sending several government officials, including the ministers of transport and interior, to Aden. Saudi-led airstrikes con-

tinued across the country Wednesday, and the Houthis said in an announcement that their forces fired rockets across the border into Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi-led coalition has been targeting the Iran-allied Houthis and their allies since March in a bid to stop their power grab across Yemen.

The strikes and ground fighting came despite a U.N.-brokered truce — which is

due to expire Thursday at the end of Ramadan.

On Wednesday, U.N. humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien called again for an immediate and unconditional humanitarian pause in Yemen. O'Brien said despite the fighting, humanitarian workers have been able to distribute some aid but "it is not nearly enough and we need access and funds to rapidly scale up critical humanitarian supplies and services." □



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Mexico drug lord escape tunnel is audacious feat of engineering

C. SHERMAN

E. CASTILLO

Associated Press

ALMOLOYA, Mexico (AP)

— Mexico's most prized prisoner paced his cell, first to the latrine, then the shower, then the bed. At every turn around the tiny room, drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman checked the shower floor hidden by a half wall, because even jailed criminals get their privacy.

In his final sweep, Guzman sat on his bed and took off his shoes. Then he walked back to the shower, stooped behind the wall and disappeared. It was the beginning of an escape odyssey straight out of the pages of fiction, and the media were given a peek on Tuesday of the deep and sophisticated tunnel that led the leader of the Sinaloa cartel, whose illicit drug trafficking reach includes Europe and Asia, swiftly to freedom late Saturday night.

Mexico's security commissioner Monte Alejandro Rubido said Tuesday that up to the moment Guzman disappeared, his pacing was considered normal for someone who lives in about 5 square meters (60 square feet) with only an hour a day outside for exercise. But there was nothing usual after he lifted a slab of concrete shower floor and descended into a warm and humid man-made underworld, where a motorcycle rigged to two carts on rails waited to whisk him away.

Guzman either rode on the bike or in one of the carts for a mile (1.5 kilometers) in the dirt tunnel built just high enough for a man called "Shorty" to

stand without hitting his head. When he reached the other end, he climbed a wooden ladder through a large, wood-framed shaft with a winch overhead that had been used to drop construction supplies into the tunnel. After pulling himself up 17 rungs, he reached a small basement, where a blue power generator the size of a compact car provided the electricity to illuminate and pump oxygen into the underground escape route.

From there, Guzman walked to a shorter ladder and climbed one, two, three steps as the air thinned and the temperature dropped 10 degrees. As Guzman's head poked above the dirt floor, he climbed three more rungs to stand inside the unfinished bodega built to hide the elaborate scheme. Digging crews had discarded 4-by 4-inch wooden beams, 8-foot-tall coils of steel mesh, gallons of hydraulic fluid, 10-foot lengths of PVC pipe and an electric disc saw. A battered wheel barrow full of fine gray soil sat just above the opening in the floor. A couple of improvised wooden tables and a wooden bench rounded out the bodega's furniture, along with shelves of assorted drill bits, a circular wood saw blade, a jar of liquid cement for pipe joining and a bottle of motor oil.

Seven more strides and the man who Mexico's government said could not possibly repeat his 2001 prison escape stepped through a sliding steel door into the chilly night on a high plain west of the capital. □

Colombia:

Path to peace littered with land mines

JACOBO GARCIA

Associated Press

GRANADA, Colombia (AP)

— At first, Sandra Gonzalez didn't think much of the guerrillas burying objects on the dirt road outside her isolated, cinder-block farmhouse as they prepared to leave town 12 years ago.

But soon cows and horses began to die, ripped apart by exploding land mines. Then a neighbor lost his life. From then on, neither Gonzalez nor her four children have dared to turn right walking out the door.

"When the livestock escaped from the corral, nobody would chase after them," Gonzalez said.

Tens of thousands of land mines are among the most sinister scars of Colombia's half-century conflict. And even as the government and rebels hold slow-moving peace talks in Cuba, more are being planted, perhaps faster than old ones can be removed.

Dressed head to toe in an astronaut-like armored suit, soldier Albeiro Jose Acuna kneels on the ground combing for explosives.

Minutes feel like hours as the army technician advance centimeter by centimeter with a paint brush and tweezers to inspect every suspect object before declaring it safe to tread. Information about the exact location of the mines is scarce to nonexistent.

"Any small mistake can take your life," says Acuna. A bead of sweat dripping from his face, less from the tension, he says, than the suffocating heat in this jungled valley a few hours from Medellin, Colombia's second largest city. "This is no place to be nervous."



Soldier Albeiro Jose Acuna, 20, searches for land mines where locals reported that rebels had planted them in Cocorna, Colombia. Soldiers are searching for and removing live land mines in rural areas like Cocorna, clearing farms and roads so residents can return to their homes.

(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

Colombia is the world's second-deadliest country for land mines, behind Afghanistan, with more than 2,000 people killed and 11,000 maimed or wounded by shrapnel since 1990, according to the government. About a third of the victims are civilians.

Most of the hidden killers were planted by retreating members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia as part of a strategy to protect themselves from pursuit by sowing terror in the minds of their battlefield enemies.

For at least a decade, an army battalion, now commanded by Col. Andres Goyeneche, has been in an uphill struggle to remove mines in areas no longer contested by the rebels.

Goyeneche said the battalion has removed 4,400 mines so far, but according to government estimates, at the current pace and with the technology avail-

able, it would take 47 years to certify Colombia is clear of land mines even if no more are planted.

For every explosive that is removed, at an estimated cost of \$1,000 per device, several more are assembled using cheap, readily available materials such as coffee tins, fertilizer and syringes, he said.

"Every guerrilla can carry four or five (explosives) in their backpack," he said.

"There are ones that detonate with movement, others covered in excrement so dogs can't detect them, and they're even placed inside soccer balls. ... You can make mines in as many ways as your imagination allows you to spread evil."

The FARC have promised to stop using land mines, something Colombia's army did in 2000 when it signed an international treaty. But though their use has decreased, the weapons continue to be part of the rebels' arsenal. □

Raul Castro eyes 'new stage' for US-Cuba as ties to resume

PETER ORSI
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Raul Castro said Wednesday that Cuba and the United States are entering a new era as the countries prepare to restart diplomatic relations next week, though he insisted more changes in U.S. policy toward the communist-run island are necessary.

In his first public comments since the two governments announced that their diplomatic missions currently known as "interests sections" will enjoy full embassy status beginning July 20, Castro's remarks to Cuba's parliament sounded both a welcoming and cautious tone.

"A new stage will begin, long and complex, on the road toward normalization, which will require the will to find solutions to the problems that have accumulated over more than

five decades and hurt ties between our nations and peoples," Castro said in remarks published on the state-run website Cubadebate.

"As we have said, it is about founding a new kind of tie between both states, that is different from all our shared history," he added. Castro acknowledged President Barack Obama's call for a debate on lifting the more than 50-year-old U.S. trade embargo, something that would require an act of Congress.

But "we hope he continues to use his executive powers to dismantle aspects of this policy, which causes damage and hardship among our people," Castro said. He said as far as Cuba is concerned, relations cannot be normalized as long as the embargo is in place. He also demanded the return of the U.S. military base at Guantanamo, compen-



Cuba's President Raul Castro, left, applauds alongside Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel, center, and Vice President Jose Ramon Machado Ventura during a National Assembly session in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, July 15, 2015. State-run website Cubadebate reports that the body is considering a final budget report for 2014 and the status of Cuba's economic plan over the first half of this year.

(AP Photo/Ismael Francisco, Cubadebate)

sation for economic damage from the embargo, an end to U.S. broadcasts beamed at the island and a halt to "programs that aim to promote subversion and destabilization." Such grievances are not new, and it's not clear how much Washington would be willing to consider any or all of them.

U.S. law says the embargo cannot be lifted unless Ha-

vana pays compensation for American properties nationalized following the 1959 Cuban Revolution, now worth an estimated \$7 billion or more. And the United States is seeking its own concessions from Cuba on issues such as human rights and democracy.

Cuban officials from Castro on down have said repeatedly that the island's

one-party political system will not change. And while they acknowledge Cuba needs to adjust things like economic policy, they make clear they will not tolerate intrusion into their affairs. "Changing whatever needs to be changed is a sovereign matter, and exclusive to the Cubans," Castro said.

Continued on Page 27

UN Report: Colombia surpasses Peru in coca cultivation

FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Colombia surpassed Peru last year in land under coca cultivation, with Peru experiencing a 14 percent drop in acreage for the plant used to make cocaine, according to U.N. data released Wednesday.

The U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime's annual report on Peruvian coca's crop said it encompassed 42,900 hectares (67 square miles). It's the crop's fourth straight year of decline and the smallest area under cultivation since 1998. The finding does not necessarily mean Colombia is now the world's No. 1 cocaine producer, however. Much of Peru's crop

is more mature and higher yielding, having never been subjected to eradication.

Peru's government does not destroy coca in the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro river valley, the world's leading coca-growing region, citing security concerns. The size of Belgium and Israel combined, the valley accounts for 68 percent of Peru's coca crop. Last year, Peruvian President Ollanta Humala suspended U.S.-backed plans to begin eradication there and replaced the Peruvian drug czar who was advocating it.

The U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy estimates Peru's potential cocaine production for 2014

at 285 metric tons, versus 245 metric tons for Colombia.

Peru's drug czar, Alberto Otárola, said his government is not finished measuring potential cocaine production but estimated it at currently "no more than 270 tons."

Two weeks ago, the U.N. said Colombia's coca acreage skyrocketed in 2014 from 48,000 hectares to 69,000 hectares (75 square miles to 108 square miles). That's in large part because of reduced aerial spraying. The herbicide used, glyphosate, was recently classified by a U.N. health agency as a probable carcinogen.

Peru only eradicates manually. □

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ORANJESTAD, Aruba and MCLEAN, Va. – July 15, 2015 – Hilton Hotels & Resorts, the flagship brand of Hilton Worldwide (NYSE: HLT), announced today the opening of the 355-room Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, a 15-acre beachfront oasis in Palm Beach, Aruba. With a privileged location on picturesque white sand beaches, this upscale resort in Aruba welcomes travelers to one of the Caribbean's most desired destinations.

"Aruba is the quintessential Caribbean island with its strong European influence, long stretches of white beach and eclectic culinary scene," said Rob Palleschi, global head, full service brands, Hilton Worldwide. "As one of the most revisited destinations in the region, this opening marks an important milestone as we continue to expand our global presence and deliver on our commitment to providing diverse experiences for our guests." Located on the largest beachfront stretch of Palm Beach and less than 10 miles from the capital city of Oranjestad, Hilton Aruba

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dus, renowned architect of some of Miami's most famous hotels, as well as the The Condado Plaza Hilton and DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Metropolitan – New York City), unmatched beaches, enchanting gardens, an expansive pool complex, kids club, watersports and dive center, world-class spa, on-site casino and culinary choices for the most discerning palate, this resort offers something for everyone.

"The opening of Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino is celebrated with pride," said Tom Potter, senior vice president, Caribbean, Mexico and Latin America, Hilton Worldwide. "This project is a magnifi-

ban hospitality to life. We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this hospitable community, and extend Hilton's warm welcome to the island's residents and visitors."

Stay The upscale Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino features 355 charming guest rooms, including executive floor rooms and suites, outfitted with comfortable and luxurious bedding, flat screen TVs, wireless Internet access, coffee maker and more. Rooms offer a tropical décor, views of the gardens, pools or sea, and spacious balconies for outdoor relaxation. Executive floor guests enjoy special access to an executive lounge, private con-

las, the property provides nearly 40,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space for any occasion. Indoors, the hotel offers more than 15,000 square feet of flexible function space including eight meeting rooms with total capacity for more than 900 guests, five private intimate meeting rooms for smaller gatherings, a Grand Caribbean Ballroom accommodating more than 900 guests and two business centers. Outdoors, approximately 24,000 square feet of lush tropical landscape can accommodate up to 2,000 guests.

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tic beachfront exclusive dining experience with a personal server and four-course dinner, Gilligan's Beach Bar & Grill is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner offering comfort food favorites in a friendly casual environment, Laguna Restaurant welcomes guests to indoor and outdoor dining featuring Caribbean fare and health-inspired cuisine, Mira Solo, meaning "look at the sun" in Papiamento, is the first and only martini and wine bar in Aruba and Sunset Grille is the resort's award-winning signature restaurant serving international specialties including steak and seafood dishes.

Continued on Page 16

Loyal Visitors Honored at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure

of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Divi Phoe-

nix Beach Resort as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The

symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as

a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to -19 and 20-to-34 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Michael and Mrs. Dawn Zinkgraf and their children Nicole and Jessica, from Morris Plains, New Jersey, Ms. Christa and her brother Dan Zambardino from Spring Lake and Jersey City, New Jersey, and Mrs. Lisa Bell Matthews and her daughter Hope Matthews from West Hempstead, New York. All the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants and the Casinos. Aruba feels like a second home to these guests and the people are like family to them.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Avril Culley and Ms. Vicsaira Tevreden representing the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort. □





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Mussels are one of the most favorite dishes in Belgium. While the mussels itself come from the North Sea, northern coast of the Netherlands, the Belgians have their own way of preparing the mussels, preferably with their favorite Belgian beer, herbs and vegetables in a large steaming pot. Try out our mussels these upcoming weeks! Make



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Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino

Continued from Page 13

Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino participates in Hilton HHonors®, the award-winning guest-loyalty program for Hilton Worldwide's twelve distinct hotel brands. Hilton HHonors Members always get our lowest price with our Best Price Guarantee, along with HHonors Points, free Wi-Fi, digital check-in and no booking fees only when they book directly through Hilton.

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



United States' Tom Watson drives a ball from the 18th tee during a special Champion Golfers' challenge at the British Open Golf Championship at the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

Associated Press

Tom Watson:
'The only regret
I have is that
it's the end'

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer
ST. ANDREWS, Scotland
(AP) — Tom Watson is filled with all sorts of conflicting emotions.

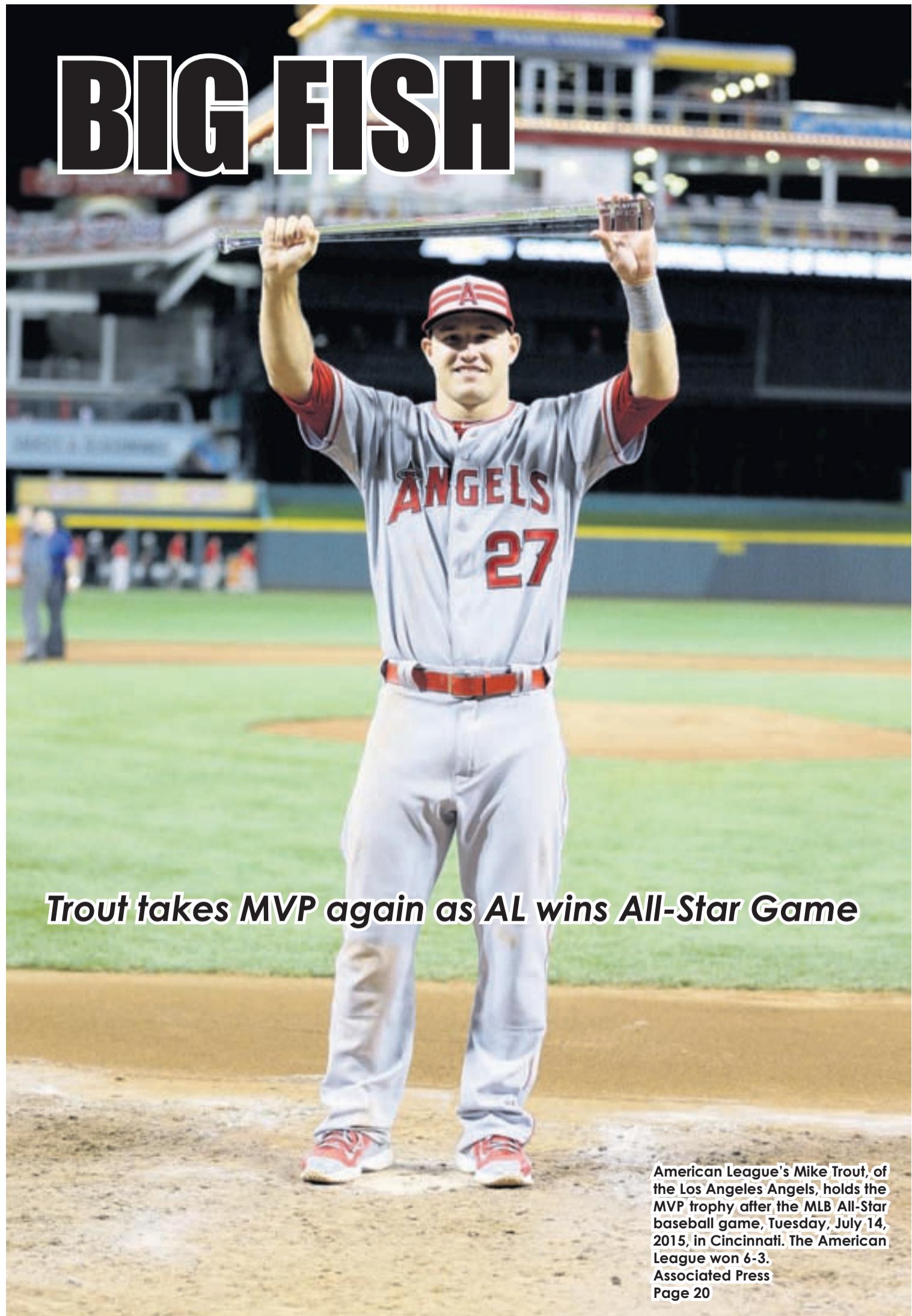
He's melancholy that such a big part of his life is winding down, yet there's an immense sense of pride in what he's accomplished. He's realistic that it's the right time to step away, but he can still flash that ol' competitive streak when anyone suggests this is nothing more than a nostalgic farewell at the home of golf.

"This is not a ceremony at all," Watson said Wednesday, his eyes steely and firm. "I'm trying to compete against these players out here."

Some of them, such as Jordan Spieth, are young enough to be his grandchildren.

Continued on next page

BIG FISH



Trout takes MVP again as AL wins All-Star Game

American League's Mike Trout, of the Los Angeles Angels, holds the MVP trophy after the MLB All-Star baseball game, Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in Cincinnati. The American League won 6-3.
 Associated Press
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Marc Gasol says leaving Memphis was never an option

CLAY BAILEY

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)

— All-Star Marc Gasol says he's sorry if Grizzlies fans worried over how long it took him to announce that he wasn't leaving Memphis.

There was never reason to fret, though. The Spanish center said Tuesday he already knew he wasn't going anywhere else.

"Once the dust settled and I started thinking about the process of next season, every scenario would bring me back to Memphis," he said. "It never opened up to different teams. So, actually, it was pretty easy." The 7-foot-1 Spaniard spoke Tuesday at a news conference that was much more a celebration, with fans packing the lobby of the Grizzlies' arena a day



In this April 24, 2014, file photo, Memphis Grizzlies center Marc Gasol celebrates after scoring against the Oklahoma City Thunder in overtime of Game 3 of an opening-round NBA basketball playoff series in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

after Gasol signed his five-year contract. Although the Grizzlies didn't release terms of the deal, The Associated Press previously reported Gasol agreed to a five-year maximum contract worth more than \$100

million. Gasol says he needed to reflect after the season ended, but told Grizzlies owner Robert Pera over dinner July 1 in Spain he would remain with Memphis. He was unaware that

the delay in his signing was causing consternation for Grizzlies fans. He said "things in Spain take a little longer." Meanwhile, Grizzlies fans waited and worried, expressing their concern on sports talk shows. Unaware of the handwringing, Gasol did see a video by director Craig Brewer of Memphis urging the center to return, and the center called the work "emotional." The piece featured Justin Timberlake, a minority owner from the Memphis area, fans and teammates, including point guard Mike Conley, whose own long-term commitment was a major factor in Gasol's decision. "That kind of sealed the deal," Gasol said of the guard considered his best friend on the team. General manager Chris

Wallace pointed out the franchise never won a playoff game before Gasol arrived. Now, the Grizzlies have 27 postseason victories, including a trip to the 2013 Western Conference finals. Two of those wins came in the Western semifinals before Memphis was ousted 4-2 by the eventual champion Golden State Warriors.

"This is a great day to be a Memphian and a Grizzly," Wallace said, "as Marc Gasol's longtime presence on our team is now assured."

Gasol sheepishly smiled through all of the attention.

"To see all the attention is too much for me," Gasol said. "I don't deserve all this love that you guys have given me. At the end of the day, it's not about me. It's about making you guys proud." □

Tom Watson

Continued from page 17

Which is why, in all likelihood, the 65-year-old Watson will be playing the British Open for the final time, a five-time champion making one last crossing of the Swilcan Bridge.

"There are some tools missing now, especially distance," he moaned. "I need everything to compete against these kids," pausing for emphasis. "Everything." Watson could earn the right to play another five years if he finishes in the top 10 this week, an exception that was hastily added to the Open's 60-year-old age limit after he nearly became golf's oldest major champion at Turnberry in 2009. Watson went to the 72nd hole with a one-stroke lead, only to make bogey and lose to Stewart Cink in a playoff. That one still stings a bit, but Watson doesn't spend too much time dwelling in the past. When he does, the mind inevitably drifts to all the good times he had during the past four decades on the links courses of Scotland and England, a brand of golf he initially despised for the inexplicable bounces and the

persnickety weather, for a capriciousness that was very much at odds with his desire to be precise in everything he did.

"I fought it. I didn't particularly like it," Watson recalled. "In fact, I didn't like it at all when I first played here at St. Andrews in '78. I didn't like the uncertainty of it, didn't like the luck of the bounce, just didn't like links golf."

That would change, of course, as a victory at Carnoustie in his very first British Open in 1975 would lead to another two years later at Turnberry in the famous "Duel in the Sun" with Jack Nicklaus. Another title followed at Muirfield in 1980, then back-to-back wins at Troon and Birkdale in 1982 and '83. The claret jug would come to define his career, the Open providing five of his eight major titles and transforming this stoic man of the American Midwest into a beloved figure on this side of the Atlantic.

In recent days, Watson reflected on many of the people who passed through his life because of this tournament, going all the way back to his first Open as he prepared to face Jack Newton in an 18-hole playoff.



United States' Tom Watson waves to the crowd on the first green during a special Champion Golfers' challenge at the British Open Golf Championship at the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

Associated Press

"I was leaving the house, and it's raining, it's cold, and here comes a little Scottish girl, comes up to the front door and says, 'Mr. Watson, please take this for good luck,'" Watson said, his lips curling into a slight grin. "I could barely understand her, but I finally figured it out. She gave me a little thing of tinfoil, and in it was some white heather. I kept that in my bag for many years for luck, and it brought me good luck. But I remember that little girl." Watson also remembers an immigration worker at Prestwick Airport near Glasgow, a frequent

entry point into the country early in the golfer's career. The man spoke with a thick Scottish accent that Watson never quite deciphered, but it didn't matter. They were able to connect on a different level.

"We were friends for years and years, a man whom I never understood, but understood that he liked me and I liked him," said Watson, his eyes watering just a bit.

"There is a certain sense of melancholy. You can sense that. The regret that it's over," he said. "It's a little bit like death. The finality of the end is here. But what

tempers that very much are the memories and the people I've met along the way."

Another big part of his life will end next spring. Watson decided this was also the right time to announce that the 2016 Masters will be his last, his decision influenced in large part by a second-round 81 at Augusta National this year.

"The golf course is too big for me," he said. "When you shoot 81, it's time to say goodbye."

While Watson's competitive nature would never allow him to totally rule out another turn-back-the-clock performance in the British Open, he knows this will surely be his final trip across the Swilcan Bridge, an emotional crossing that so many greats have walked before him, from Arnold Palmer to longtime friend and rival Nicklaus.

In fact, Watson was paired with Nicklaus for his final British Open a decade ago. That day, the younger man bawled his eyes out as the Golden Bear walked up the 18th fairway.

There will surely be a few more tears shed this week, whether Watson's final shot comes on Friday or if he manages to hold off the inevitable until Sunday. □

After World Series run, Royals proving rebuild was no fluke

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) --

On a crisp, cool night last October, John Schuerholz walked through the gates of Kauffman Stadium. Every seat was full, bunting hung proudly from the railings. There was a buzz. It was all so familiar.

"That's what we used to have all the time," he told The Associated Press, reflecting on the Royals' improbable run to the World Series. "To see that back, and the banners over the plaza and all over the town, it was heartwarming. It really was."

Kansas City had once again become a baseball town.

And if anybody thought that it was a fluke, a lucky run to a memorable autumn climax, the Royals have done enough to prove them wrong: Seven players chosen to this week's All-Star Game, a big lead in the AL Central, some of the best young talent in the game in their clubhouse.

"I'm happy for the organization," said Schuerholz, who was part of the initial front office when the franchise began in the late 1960s, then built another dynasty with the Atlanta Braves, where he still serves as the team's president.

"They deserve what they have," he said, "but it took a lot of work to get there." That work fell on the shoulders of Dayton Moore, one of Schuerholz's top lieutenants in Atlanta. He turned down other general manager openings, but the job in Kansas City resonated with Moore, who grew up in Wichita and rooted for the Royals as a kid.

Over most of a decade, he tirelessly rebuilt their farm system. He poured money into scouting and player development. He established academies in the Caribbean and pushed boundaries of the status quo in search of players - retreads, hot prospects and virtual unknowns.

None of that has changed with their recent success, either.



American League manager Ned Yost, of the Kansas City Royals hugs American League's Salvador Perez, of the Kansas City Royals after the MLB All-Star baseball game, Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

The frugal franchise could not afford to keep staff ace James Shields when he hit free agency, so they allowed him to sign in San Diego. Moore then signed Edinson Volquez, Chris Young and Kris Medlen to serve as replacements. None of them made headlines nationally - the signings were met with a collective, 'Meh' - but they have far exceeded expectations.

Volquez has been the most dependable starter in the Kansas City rotation. Young has been perhaps the best. And Medlen is coming off his second Tommy John surgery but could give Kansas City a big second-half boost if he is even a fraction of the pitcher he once was.

That's just the starting rotation, too.

Designated hitter Billy Butler became too expensive, so Moore signed Kendrys Morales, who has out-played Butler in every way. Paulo Orlando may not be well known, but he has helped Kansas City weather injuries and suspensions - including the latest, a potentially

season-ending groin injury to star outfielder Alex Gordon.

"I'm not really smart. I'm not. But I'm a believer in players," Moore explained. "We knew those guys are winners. I can't predict what their numbers will be, but everyone we bring in, we expect them to help us win."

Therein lies perhaps the biggest change in Kansas City: Winning is expected. No longer do fans turn up to waste away a lazy summer evening.

No longer do they count the days until Arrowhead Stadium comes alive across the parking lot with the start of the NFL season. "I'll say I never dreamt of this. You just do everything you can each and every day to improve your organization," Moore said. "But then again, in our business, accomplishments have no bearing on future success." That is why Moore hardly reveled in last year's success. Even during the World Series, he was tied up most days in meetings, breaking down his roster and poten-

tial acquisitions.

In that respect, Moore is a lot like his manager.

"It doesn't really matter what we've done," said Ned Yost, who served as the AL's All-Star manager.

"You've just got to keep your head down and keep plodding along."

Many thought the Royals would regress this season, that such a young team devoid of big-name, big-

money talent would fold. But so far, they are still in the hunt, their eye on defending their AL pennant. If they can do it, you can bet Schuerholz will be pleased.

"There's a lot of people in this world that think they're baseball experts, whether they've worked a day in it or not," he said. "What they've done in Kansas City is prove many wrong." □

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Trout homers leading off, and AL All-Stars top NL 6-3

RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Mike Trout led off the All-Star game with a homer, and became the first player to win the MVP award two years running, as the American League beat the National League 6-3 on Tuesday.

Trout was one of the several young stars which had this game labeled as an All-Star game for a new generation, but the result was familiar, as the AL continued its recent dominance.

The game decides which club team gets home advantage in the World Series, so Tuesday's result means the AL representative will open the season-deciding series at home.

In an age of dominant pitching, Felix Hernandez, David Price, Zach Britton, Dellin Betances and Wade Davis took scoreless turns in the AL's third win a row.

A season after the retirement of Derek Jeter dropped the curtain on the turn-of-century greats, the 23-year-old Trout was among six starting position players under 25 — the most since 1965.

The Los Angeles Angels slugger sent Zack Greinke's fourth pitch — a fastball on



American League's Mike Trout, of the Los Angeles Angels, hits a home run during the first inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game, Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

the outer half of the plate — over the wall in right field for a homer.

Prince Fielder and Lorenzo Cain had run-scoring hits in the fifth against reigning NL MVP Clayton Kershaw that put the AL up 3-1.

Manny Machado hit a double off the right-field wall against Francisco Rodriguez in the seventh and scored on Fielder's sacrifice fly. And Brian Dozier hit a solo home run off Mark Mel-

ancon in the eighth.

Stars old and young gathered in one of baseball's most traditional towns. The Cincinnati Reds became baseball's first professional team in 1869, and players wore caps with horizontal stripes in an attempt at a 19th century feel.

Pete Rose, Cincinnati's hometown hero and baseball's career hits leader, was given an 80-second ovation when he walked

onto the field before the game to join Johnny Bench, Joe Morgan and Barry Larkin, elected by fans as the Reds' greatest players.

Bench later returned with Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Sandy Koufax, voted by fans as baseball's great living players. Aaron, 81, and Morgan, 71, needed canes to reach the infield, and Mays, 84, was aided on and off the field by an assistant.

Trout became the first player to homer in the first at-bat of an All-Star Game since 1977 when Morgan produced the feat. Greinke, coming off five scoreless outings with the Los Angeles Dodgers, had not allowed a run since June 13.

"It's not easy," Greinke said of pitching to Trout. "You've got like a 2-inch window up in the zone. If you throw it higher than that, he takes it. If you throw it lower he does what he did."

Dallas Keuchel, the AL starter, gave up the tying run in the second after Paul Goldschmidt led off with a bouncer toward third base and managed to get to second as Josh Donaldson threw wildly. Goldschmidt scored on Buster Posey's groundout, and Jhonny Peralta, an All-Star again after serving a 50-game drug suspension two years ago, dumped a two-out single into right field.

The AL went back on top in the fifth against Kershaw. Fielder lined a single that scored Trout, who raced home from second to slide in at home plate just ahead of the throw, and Cain pulled the next pitch down the left-field line for an RBI double. □

Rose, 3 other Reds honored on field before All-Star Game

JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Pete Rose came home for the All-Star Game and made a rare on-field appearance in the place where he's still treated like a king.

The hits king was voted one of Cincinnati's Franchise Four players as part of a Major League Baseball promotion. Rose and Hall of Famers Johnny Bench, Barry Larkin and Joe Morgan were introduced on the field at Great American Ball Park before the All-Star Game on Tuesday night.

The 74-year-old Rose was last out of the American League dugout. Fans started chanting "Pete! Pete!" when they saw him reach the top step, wearing a red

jacket and tie.

He always gets a good reception in his hometown. This one was more subdued than usual — home run derby champion Todd Frazier got a more raucous cheer, and the boos for Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina were louder, as well. Even so, Rose acknowledged it was emotional.

"The only bad thing about being out there: I didn't get no at-bats," Rose told reporters afterward. "I wish I had gotten a couple of at-bats. The fans were wonderful. "I've been going through this love affair for 30 years. The fans are great." What's next for Rose? He still has no idea. Rose was banned for betting on baseball in 1989



Pete Rose, Joe Morgan, Barry Larkin and Johnny Bench throw out ceremonial first pitches before the MLB All-Star baseball game, Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

Rose to discuss it.

Manfred, who replaced Bud Selig in January, said he's reviewing material developed in the various investigations of Rose's gambling. "I frankly was surprised at how much material there was to be reviewed," Manfred said. "We're taking a fresh look at all of that. I remain committed to the idea that Mr. Rose deserves an opportunity to tell me in whatever format he feels most comfortable, whatever he wants me to know about the issues. And I'm sure there will be an in-person meeting." Rose got to meet Manfred for the first time as he waited to go on the field. □

and has a longstanding application for reinstatement pending. Commissioner Rob Manfred said on Tuesday that he hasn't yet scheduled a meeting with

Sky protects Froome's Tour lead as Majka wins Stage 11



Poland's Rafal Majka celebrates as he crosses the finish line of the eleventh stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 188 kilometers (116.8 miles) with start in Pau and finish in Cauterets, France, Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

CAUTERETS, France (AP)

— Tour de France leader Chris Froome understands those who harbor doubts about his dominant performances in a sport long marred by doping. Maybe, he says, it's time to bring in an independent specialist to test his body and help prove that he's riding clean.

The 30-year-old Briton cruised through a second day in the Pyrenees mountains on Wednesday, finishing more than five minutes behind Stage 11 winner Rafal Majka of Poland but keeping his main rivals in check.

The bumpy, grueling ride under a hot sun came a day after Froome blew away the pack, prompting new suspicions about doping. Ironically, it came as Lance Armstrong — who was stripped of seven consecutive Tour titles — was to return to French roads nearby, even though he's persona non grata at the Tour de France.

Armstrong was to take part in charity rides Thursday and Friday to raise money to fight leukemia, taking the same route that Tour riders will cover a day later. Froome brushed off Armstrong's visit as a "non-event", noting that "he's not on the start line with

us."

However, Armstrong's presence is a reminder that any Tour leader can expect to come under at least some suspicion. To deal with that, Froome is willing to take testing even further.

"I'm open-minded to potentially doing some physiological testing at some point after the Tour, or at whatever point suits," the Briton said. "Obviously, there would be some interesting things that come out of it, and maybe as a team we might even learn something from it."

Speaking to French TV, Froome said he does "sympathize" with people who have their doubts about him, adding: "It's a normal question to ask" given the sport's history. But he emphasized his hard work — sometimes from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. — and decried a "lack of respect" shown by some.

Arriving in France on Wednesday, Armstrong acknowledged to British broadcaster Sky News that he bore some responsibility for the spotlight now being trained on the Briton.

"I know what it's like for a guy like Chris to be in the middle of a Tour to deal with the constant questions, which of course he is. And to be fair and to be honest to him, a lot of

that is my fault," Armstrong said.

However, Froome and his team are ready to take on the skeptics.

"Best moment of my day was stopping to have a chat to a guy calling me a doper on the way back to the bus," tweeted Sky's Richie Porte, a key mountain guide for Froome in the race, after Wednesday's stage. The Australian went on to use an expletive suggesting that he had scared off the critic.

The day's glory meanwhile went to Majka, a 25-year-old Pole whose solo breakaway left behind a small group of rivals. The victory was the first for his strong Tinkoff Saxo Bank team and offered some redemption for the squad whose leader, two-time Tour winner Alberto Contador, has been struggling in this year's race.

Majka presented little threat to Froome. He had begun the 188-kilometer (117-mile) stage from Pau to Cauterets more than 44 1/2 minutes behind.

Majka, who last year won the polka dot jersey awarded to the race's best climber, burst out of a breakaway bunch on the way up the Tourmalet pass — the highest and most frequently visited Tour peak in the Pyrenees

— and was the first over it. The results had little impact on the overall standings. Froome leads Tejay van Garderen of the United States, who is second, by 2 minutes, 52 seconds while Nairo Quintana of Colombia is third, 3:09 back. Contador is sixth, 4:04 off the Briton's pace.

Defending Tour champion Vincenzo Nibali trailed more than six minutes behind Majka, again losing

time to Froome. Many seasoned race observers say it will take nearly a miracle for Froome's main rivals to topple him before the race ends on Paris' Champs-Elysees on July 26. Appropriately enough, Stage 11 took the pack into the Roman Catholic shrine town of Lourdes, made famous because of a peasant girl's visions of the Virgin Mary over 150 years ago. □

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NEW THIS WEEK

ANT-MAN (PG-13)
PAUL RUDD | MICHAEL DOUGLAS
MON-THURS 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:30
FRI 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:30 | 12:15
SAT 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:30 | 12:15
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:30

3D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:15 | 7:50
FRI 5:15 | 7:50 | 10:25
SAT 2:40 | 5:15 | 7:50 | 10:25
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 5:15 | 7:50

TRAINWRECK (R)
AMY SCHUMER | BILL HADER
MON-THURS 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15
FRI-SAT 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15

MINIONS (PG)
SANDRA BULLOCK | JON HAMM
MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50
FRI 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00
SAT 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50

2D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:30 | 7:45
FRI 5:30 | 7:45 | 10:00
SAT 3:15 | 5:30 | 7:45 | 10:00
SUN & HOL 3:15 | 5:30 | 7:45

THE GALLows (R)
MON-THURS 7:20
FRI 7:30
SAT 2:45 | 7:20
SUN & HOL 2:45 | 7:20

TERMINATOR GENISYS (PG-13)
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER | EMILIA CLARKE
MON-THURS 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
FRI-SAT 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20

SELF/LESS (PG-13)
RYAN REYNOLDS | NATALIE MARTINEZ
MON-THURS 4:50 | 9:25
FRI-SAT 4:50 | 9:25 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 4:50 | 9:25

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Serena Williams from the US plays her opening match against Ysaline Bonaventure of Belgium, at the Swedish Open in Bastad, Sweden, Wednesday, July 15, 2015. Williams won 6-2, 6-1.

Associated Press

Serena Williams in easy win over Bonaventure

BASTAD, Sweden (AP) —

Top-ranked Serena Williams sailed through her opening match at the Swedish Open with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Belgian qualifier Ysaline Bonaventure in the first round on Wednesday.

Four days after winning her sixth Wimbledon title, Williams ousted Bonaventure from the clay-court tournament in 53 minutes despite a first-serve percentage of 64.

Williams, the 2013 Bastad champion, next faces Czech player Klara Koukalova, who beat the American on clay six years ago.

Seventh-seeded Johanna Larsson of Sweden ad-

vanced to the second round after beating Richel Hogenkamp of the Netherlands 6-1, 6-3 and will play Anna-Lena Friedsam of Germany.

In the first three second round matches, Lara Arruabarrena of Spain rallied to upset second-seeded Samantha Stosur of Australia 7-6 (5), 6-0, after being 2-4 down in the first set.

Fourth-seeded Mona Barthel and Jana Cepelova joined Arruabarrena in the quarterfinals.

Germany's Barthel crushed Maryna Zanevska 6-0, 6-0 while Slovakia's Cepelova came from a set down to beat Olga Govortsova 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. □

Sara Errani through -to QFs in Bucharest

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) —

Top-seeded Sara Errani overcame a slow start to beat Shahar Peer 7-6 (5), 6-2 on Wednesday and reach the quarterfinals of the Bucharest Open.

Errani committed a string of backhand errors in the second round match to trail 4-2, before the Italian made a comeback against her Israeli opponent.

Polona Hercog of Slovenia also advanced to the quarterfinals, defeating Pa-

tricia Maria Tig of Romania 6-0, 6-2.

Errani's compatriot Roberta Vinci, seeded second, eased past Hungary's Timea Babos 6-2, 6-1 in under an hour to make it to the second round.

In other first round matches, No. 4 Julia Goerges of Germany overcame qualifier Daria Kasatkina of Russia, 7-6 (4), 6-4 and Sorana Cirstea of Romania beat Sesil Karatantcheva of Bulgaria 6-2, 6-2. □



In this June 29, 2014, file photo, Mexico's Giovani dos Santos celebrates after scoring his side's first goal against Netherlands goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match in Fortaleza, Brazil.

Associated Press

L.A. Galaxy sign Mexican star Giovani dos Santos

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

CARSON, Calif. (AP) —

Giovani dos Santos is the next star in the LA Galaxy. The defending MLS Cup champions signed the versatile Mexican scorer Wednesday, bolstering their already powerful line-up with another international talent.

The 26-year-old dos Santos spent the last two seasons with Spain's Villareal, scoring 12 goals in 58 La Liga appearances. He has played professionally in Europe since his childhood, but dos Santos also has played for Mexico in two World Cups during eight years with El Tri.

"Giovani is a special player," said Bruce Arena, the Galaxy's coach and general manager. "He has experience and success competing at the highest level, and we believe he will only continue to develop."

After four years of courting dos Santos, the Galaxy finally signed the highest-profile Mexican star in their history to a designated player contract, paying a reported \$7 million transfer fee.

Along with dos Santos' playmaking skills, the MLS power hopes he'll attract new fans for the Galaxy

among Southern California's large Latino population and in Mexico.

"He's a player that the world has known, and he's a player that we've known about for some time," said Galaxy President Chris Klein, who has been pursuing dos Santos since 2011.

"It's the right time for the Galaxy, and it's the right time for Giovani to come and put on a Galaxy shirt, and we're very excited about what the potential is."

Dos Santos' legal representative has said the Galaxy contract runs through the 2019 season. The club didn't disclose terms.

One season after Landon Donovan's retirement and 2 1/2 years after David Beckham's departure, the Galaxy have reloaded the midfield of MLS' glamour franchise. They added

English midfielder Steven Gerrard to their lineup last week, but dos Santos — likely still in his prime — could slot perfectly into the playmaking role vacated by Donovan last winter.

"Giovani coming in at the time of his career where he's just entering his prime is a really important statement for the Galaxy, and a really important statement for MLS," Klein said.

Dos Santos will join the

Galaxy in August after the Gold Cup, possibly making his debut at home against first-place Seattle on Aug. 9. He is another scoring threat on a roster already boasting league MVP Robbie Keane, U.S. national team forward Gyasi Zardes and Gerrard.

The deal is a reunion for Keane and dos Santos, who were teammates with Tottenham Hotspur.

"He's very, very skillful, quick (and) sharp," Keane told reporters after the Galaxy's training session Wednesday. "He can score goals. He can set up people. He's basically got it all, to be honest with you. That's why I'm delighted that he's come. I think he's going to be a superstar in this league, there's no question about it. He has the right mentality. He has the flair."

The Galaxy already had the MLS-maximum three designated players on their roster in Gerrard, Keane and U.S. defender Omar Gonzalez, but the league changed its salary cap rules last week. The free-spending Galaxy subsequently lowered the budget charge on Gonzalez to clear a spot for another designated player who can be paid above the league's salary strictures. □

Apple's updates iPod Touch amid declining sales

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Although the iPod's popularity has waned, Apple is updating its music player for the first time in nearly three years by giving the flagship Touch model a faster processor and better cameras.

The new iPod Touch also enables Apple Music, a \$10-a-month service that offers unlimited playback of millions of songs. Apple Music launched June 30 as music fans increasingly embrace subscriptions over pay-per-song services such as Apple's industry-leading iTunes.

Although music players existed before the original iPod's debut in 2001, the iPod was the first to simplify syncing with digital music collections on personal computers. It was Apple's first success beyond personal computers and began a company transformation that led to the iPhone in 2007, the iPad in 2010 and the Apple Watch this year. Many people now listen to music on smartphones rather than iPods, though. Sales of iPods peaked at nearly 55 million in fiscal 2008, the year after the iPhone came out. In the most recent fiscal year, which ended last September, Apple sold 14 million iPods. By contrast, Apple sold 169 million iPhones in the same period.

As demand has slowed, so has Apple's updates to the iPod: Apple no longer updates its iPods annually as it usually does with its top sellers.



This composite product image provided by Apple shows varieties of the new iPod Touch, available for sale on Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

But Wednesday's update shows Apple isn't giving up on the iPod.

The Touch is essentially an iPhone without cellular capabilities, as it runs the same iOS operating system and most of the same apps. Connected to the Internet over Wi-Fi, the Touch extends Apple Music and iPhone apps to teens and other younger customers who might not need cellphones or cannot afford cellular service.

Beyond music, the iPod Touch might get new customers hooked on Apple's apps, video and other content — such that they'll turn to an iPhone, iPad or Mac when they are ready.

Prices for the Touch start at \$199, the same as an iPhone 6 with a two-year service contract, but the iPod Touch requires no monthly service fees for voice, text and data. Calling is possible over Wi-Fi through FaceTime audio and video conferencing. Without a contract, an iPhone 6 starts at \$649,

compared with a few hundred dollars for some Android smartphones.

Roger Kay, president of the market research firm Endpoint Technology Associates, said the iPod Touch helps protect Apple from lower-priced competitors. "Having a \$200 small computer without cellular service is a pretty good price," Kay said. "This may be a second, third or fourth device for families that already have a bunch of Apple products. The 9-year-old wants something, so they get them a Touch."

It also makes Apple products more affordable in emerging markets, said Carolina Milanesi, who heads U.S. operations for the Kantar Worldpanel ComTech research group. Rob Enderle of the Enderle Group said that while iPod sales have been declining, they are still massive.

"Not everyone wants an iPhone, yet a lot of those folks loved their iPods," he said. "This product will be far more successful than

anyone expects."

Among the improvements:

— The processor now matches that in the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus from last fall, rather than one from the iPhone 4s in 2011. Apple says the new chip is six times faster for general tasks and 10 times faster for graphics.

— The rear camera can take sharper pictures, at 8 megapixels. That matches recent iPhones and exceeds the 5 megapixels in the previous Touch. The front and rear cameras can now take 10 shots per second and slow-motion video at 120 frames per second.

"Customers can experience next-level gameplay, take even more beautiful photos and enjoy their favorite music, TV shows and movies," said Greg Joswiak, Apple's vice president

of iPhone, iPod and iOS product marketing.

Although the Touch has an accelerometer to track basic fitness, it doesn't have all of the iPhone's sensors. There's no barometer to measure steps climbed and no fingerprint ID to unlock the device. There's also no Apple Pay, the technology for making payments at retail stores. The screen remains at 4 inches, as measured diagonally, even though iPhones have gotten bigger at 4.7 and 5.5 inches.

Apple is introducing a new \$399 model with 128 gigabytes, matching the iPhone's maximum capacity. The \$199 base model has 16 gigabytes, enough for thousands of songs, though the iPod Touch is meant to hold photos, video and apps, too. □

Google unveils buying button in mobile shopping ads

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google is introducing a way for shoppers browsing on their smartphones to buy merchandise by tapping on a button included in the ads appearing in its search results.

The buying button unveiled Wednesday is part of Google's attempt to make it easier for people

to shop on mobile devices and divert online traffic from e-commerce leader Amazon.com Inc.

The feature, called "Purchases on Google," completes sales using financial information that already has been stored with Google. Participating merchants can still gather information about custom-

ers using Google's buying button.

Facebook also has been testing a similar buying button in ads appearing in its social network.

About a dozen retailers are initially using Google's buying button. Google is hoping to increase the number of merchants before the end of this year. □



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Energy stocks, Greece woes lead US market lower

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. stock market edged lower Wednesday, ending a four-day rally, as a drop in energy shares and jitters over Greece outweighed encouraging earnings reports from banks.

Energy stocks slumped along with the price of oil after a report showed that a drop in U.S. supplies last week was less than expected.

The market's pause follows strong gains. Stocks have surged in the past week as a slump in China's stock market abated and Greece reached a deal with its creditors for more loans to avoid bankruptcy and a possible exit from the euro.

Greece's deal with its creditors must still be approved by the country's lawmakers. As investors waited for a vote in the nation's parliament, protesters clashed with police in the streets of Athens. The protesters want an end to the harsh austerity measures demanded by Greece's creditors in exchange for more loans.

"You come in some days and it looks like it's all clear and that Greece has been resolved, and the next day it hasn't," said Michael Scanlon, portfolio manager with John Hancock Asset Management.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index edged down 1.55 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,107.40. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 3.41 points, or less than 0.1 percent,

to 18,050.17. The Nasdaq composite fell 5.95 points, or 0.1 percent, to 5,098.94. The U.S. stock market started the day higher after encouraging second-quarter results from banks, including Bank of America. The bank said its profit more than doubled thanks to lower legal bills. It also

that the economy is reviving after a harsh winter. If the improvements continue, she said, policymakers will likely start raising interest rates later this year. The Fed has kept its benchmark rate near zero since December 2008, pushing up bond and stock prices. Yellen was flagging the

stock jumped on reports that activist investor firm Starboard Value thinks the department store chain could boost its value by spinning off its real estate holdings. Macy's climbed \$5.28, or 7.9 percent, to \$72.01.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude fell \$1.63,



Michael Pistillo, Jr., left, with Barclays and Tommy Kalikas with Livermore Trading Group follow stock prices at the New York Stock Exchange. The U.S. stock market edged lower Wednesday, ending a four-day rally, as a drop in energy shares and jitters over Greece outweighed encouraging earnings reports from banks.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

said an increase in deposits, lower expenses and an improving balance sheet helped offset a decline in revenue.

The bank's stock rose 55 cents, or 3.2 percent, to \$17.68.

Investors were also following Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen's comments to the House Financial Services Committee.

Yellen told Congress she sees encouraging signs

possibility of higher rates so as not to surprise investors when the Fed does eventually lift them, said Quincy Crosby, a market strategist for Prudential Financial.

"That's the last thing she wants to do," said Crosby. "That's why we have to pay attention when she says that (a rate increase) is on the table."

Among individual stocks, Macy's was the biggest gainer in the S&P 500. The

or 3 percent, to close at \$51.41 a barrel, as a report on supplies showed a smaller-than-expected decline last week. The price of oil has fallen 13 percent this month. Oil has come under further pressure after Iran reached a nuclear deal with world powers. That paves the way for sanctions on the country to be lifted, allowing Iran to export oil and add to a glut in global supply. □

Delta soars on cheap fuel, hints of fare declines

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Delta Air Lines' second-quarter profit nearly doubled to \$1.5 billion as huge savings on fuel offset weak growth in revenue.

The company predicted a record quarter when it next reports financial results, in October.

Profits are soaring as airlines keep planes full by not adding too many new flights. That has caught the attention of the U.S. Justice Department, which is investigating whether the airlines are illegally working together to prop up prices by limiting the number of flights — and signaling those moves to each other in advance.

CEO Richard Anderson said the investigation would not cause his airline to stop talking about capacity plans. "We are always going to be transparent with our investors," he said on a conference call. Delta said that passengers spent 4 percent less per mile in the second quarter than they did in mid-2014, a sign that fares are slipping. That is a troubling trend for the airline business after years of rising "yield," as the figure is called. Delta said that it expects the downward trend to continue in the third quarter but end in the fourth quarter, when it will limit flying to late-2014 levels.

Airlines say their success helps passengers and employees. Anderson said that his airline has been able to afford higher wages and new airplanes.

Delta Air Lines Inc., based in Atlanta, is the nation's third-largest airline operator and the first to report results from the April-through-June quarter.

The company said second-quarter net income rose 85 percent from a year ago. Excluding non-recurring gains, Delta earned \$1.27 per share, beating the \$1.22 forecast from 10 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research. □

Pabst to return to Milwaukee with new brewery

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Pabst Brewing Co. said Wednesday it is coming home to open a new brewery and restaurant next year on the site of its original Pabst Brewery in Milwaukee.

The Los Angeles-based beer company said it plans to sign a multiyear lease on a building within the former Pabst brewery complex near downtown Milwaukee and expects to open to the public in summer 2016.

Pabst traces its roots to 1844 in Milwaukee, but closed its brewery there nearly 20 years ago. The company's brands include its flagship Pabst Blue Ribbon as well as Lone Star, Rainier, Ballantine IPA, Schlitz, Old Style, Stroh's and Old Milwaukee.

The new brewery would make many of Pabst's pre-Prohibition brands as well as new craft beers inspired by recipes from the company's archives. The brew-

ery will include a tasting room, beer garden and a restaurant and bar.

"The launch of this brewery in Pabst's original home represents a long-awaited return to our roots," current owner and CEO Eugene Kashper said in a statement.

Kashper and his partners bought Pabst in November. The previous owners moved the company's offices from suburban Chicago to Los Angeles after

buying Pabst in 2010. The former Pabst complex in Milwaukee has been renovated to include the Brew House Inn & Suites, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Public Health, apartments and other developments. The new brewery and tasting room will open in a former church that was later used as a Pabst employee training and conference center, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported. □

Bank of America profits jump in Q2 as legal costs drop

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bank of America's profits more than doubled in the second quarter thanks to lower legal costs and progress in resolving problems stemming from the financial crisis. The consumer banking giant earned \$4.99 billion after payments to preferred shareholders, the bank said Wednesday, up from \$2.04

billion a year earlier. The bank earned 45 cents per share, compared with 19 cents per share a year earlier. BofA's consumer banking division, its largest business by revenue and profit, earned \$1.7 billion, up modestly from \$1.63 billion a year earlier. The bank said an increase in deposits, lower expenses and an improving balance sheet

helped offset a decline in revenue.

Financial analysts surveyed by FactSet expected the bank to earn 36 cents per share, a figure which typically excludes one-time items. Revenue rose to \$22.1 billion from \$21.75 billion.

The biggest drop in BofA's expenses came in its legal costs, which plummeted from \$4 billion to \$175 mil-

lion and were a big reason why the bank's profits jumped from last year. The bank reached a \$13 billion legal settlement last year with state and federal regulators regarding its role in the leadup to the 2008 financial crisis, which weighed heavily on its 2014 results. The Charlotte, North Carolina-based bank also saw its businesses expand in many places. In con-

sumer banking, the bank originated \$16 billion in residential mortgages, up from \$11.1 billion a year ago. The bank also originated more home equity loans. Credit card issuance was the highest since 2008. Where the bank made the most progress was continuing to clean up delinquent loans and other trouble spots left over from the housing bubble. □

Netflix delivers strong 2Q with 3.3 million more customers

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Netflix's second-quarter performance followed a familiar script of rapid subscriber growth that has enthralled investors.

The world's largest Internet video service added 3.3 million worldwide streaming subscribers during the three months ending to end the period with 65.6 million customers. About 900,000 of the additional subscribers were signed up in the U.S., where Netflix now has 42.3 million customers.

The increases were far better than Netflix's management projected and represented the biggest subscriber gains during the second quarter since the company began streaming video over high-speed connections eight years ago.

By comparison, Netflix picked up 1.7 million subscribers in last year's second quarter, traditionally a time when the company has more trouble attracting new subscribers and retaining existing custom-

ers because people tend to spend more time outside with the onset of spring. The stellar numbers provided another lift to Net-

ing. The second-quarter showing provided further evidence of Netflix's increasing clout in the entertainment industry as a

instead of being confined to cable- and satellite-TV programming set to come on at a specific time. The increasing popularity of



This photo shows Netflix headquarters in Los Gatos, Calif. Netflix reported second-quarter financial results on Thursday, July 15, 2015.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

lix's stock, which already has more than doubled this year. Netflix shares surged \$9.27, or 9.5 percent, to \$107.40 in extended trad-

steadily expanding audience embraces the concept of watching video whenever they want on Internet-connected devices

Internet video is confronting Netflix with formidable competition from a list of rivals that includes Amazon.com and Hulu, but the Los

Gatos, California, company has continued to thrive. The company has been fending off the competition with a slate of original programming that has drawn mostly positive reviews from critics and, in some cases, won awards. The second quarter included the third season of one of Netflix's most popular series, "Orange Is The New Black," as well as the debut of a new show called "Grace and Frankie," starring Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda.

Netflix expects to build on its recent momentum by adding nearly 3.6 million more subscribers in the current quarter ending in September.

Netflix earned \$26.3 million, or 6 cents per share, in the second quarter. That was down 63 percent from \$71 million, or 16 cents per share, at the same time last year. The slide stemmed from Netflix's ongoing expansion into more international experts as it strives to reach its goal of being available through most of the world by the end of next year. □

Starboard Value suggests real estate deals for Macy's

NEW YORK (AP) — Activist investment firm Starboard Value says retailer Macy's could boost its share price by spinning off its real estate into a separate company or forming a joint venture, saying the shares are worth almost double their current price.

Companies including Sears have made similar real estate moves, which are intended to let them get

more revenue from property they own. At an investor conference Wednesday, Starboard CEO Jeffrey Smith said Macy's owns \$21 billion in real estate, estimating that its flagship location in New York's Herald Square is worth about \$4 billion alone and stores in Chicago and San Francisco are worth about \$1 billion each. Smith said the company's stock could

be worth \$125 a share if it makes the move along with other improvements. Macy's says it is evaluating the creation of a real estate investment trust, or REIT, to see how it would affect its business.

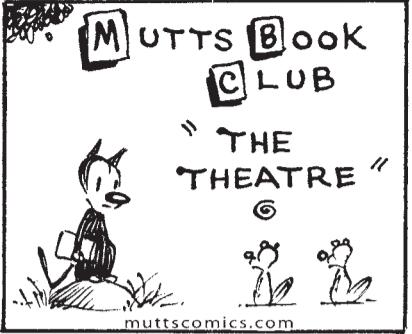
"We are currently evaluating those structures including analyzing the various economic, tax, operational and other issues associated with them," the company

said. Macy's Inc. has about 885 stores under the Macy's and Bloomingdale's brands and it reported about \$28 billion in sales in its last fiscal year. Shares of Macy's were the biggest gainer on the S&P 500 Wednesday, rising 7.9 percent to \$72.01 and reaching an all-time high of \$72.75 during the day. The Cincinnati company said some of its stores are

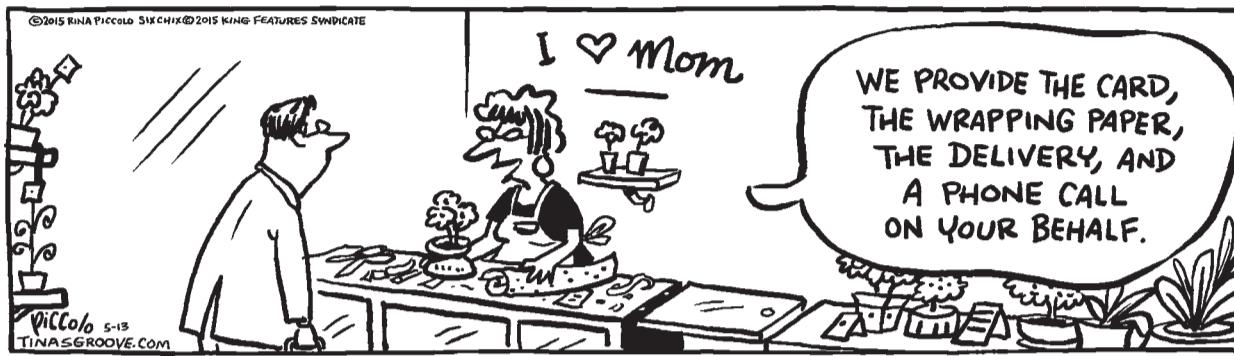
company-owned and others are leased, giving it flexibility and profitability. Earlier this year Sears sold around 235 properties to a REIT it created, then leased the stores back from the REIT. Sears said it expected \$2.6 billion in proceeds from the move. The REIT, called Seritage Growth Properties, became its own publicly traded company earlier this month. □

Conceptis Sudoku

Mutts



6 Chix



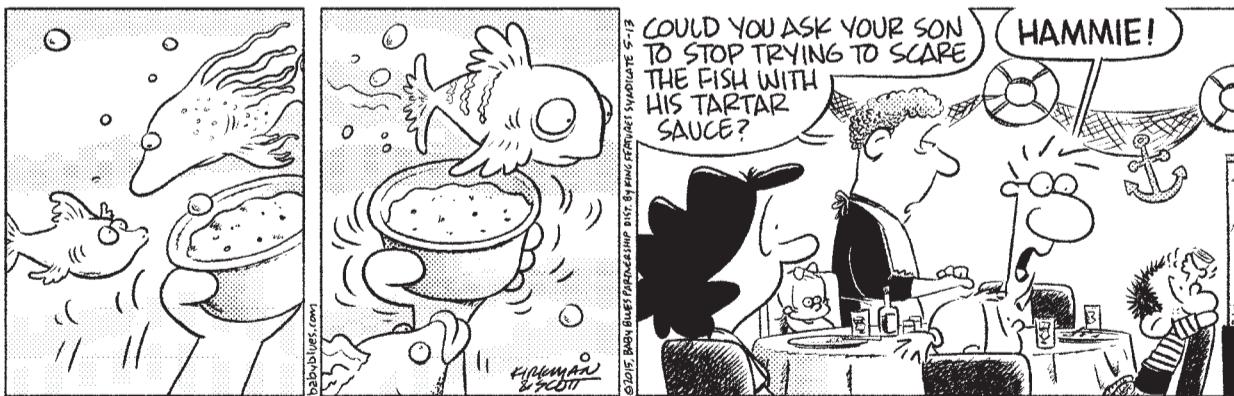
Blondie



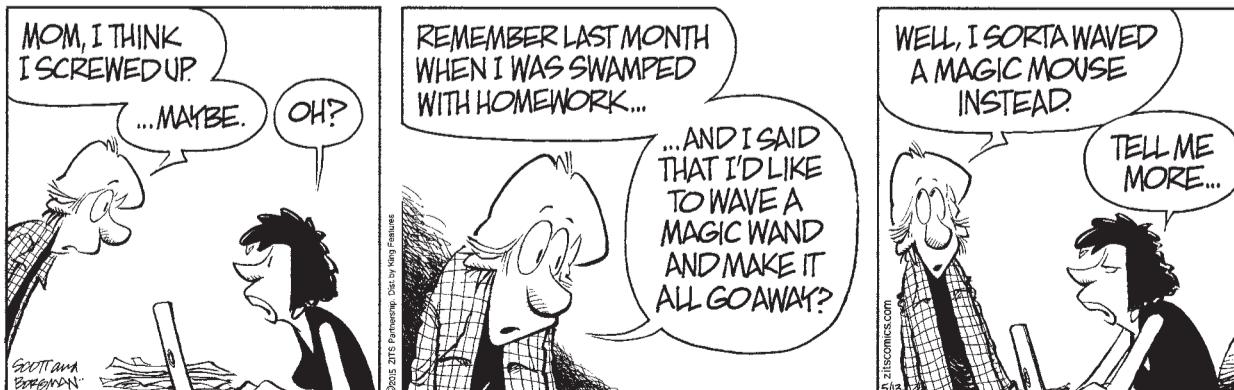
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



		3	2			6	4
	8				1		
6				4			
9				3			
5	4	8		6	3	2	
7			4	2			1
3			5	1			8
4			6	8			9
	6	9			2	1	

Difficulty Level ★★☆

5/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	9	1	4	6	2	7	5	3
5	2	7	1	3	8	9	4	6
3	6	4	7	9	5	2	1	8
6	3	8	9	7	4	5	2	1
7	1	2	5	8	3	4	6	9
9	4	5	6	2	1	3	8	7
1	7	6	2	5	9	8	3	4
4	5	3	8	1	7	6	9	2
2	8	9	3	4	6	1	7	5

ACROSS

- 1 ___ off; falls asleep
- 5 Salesman's pitch
- 10 No ifs, ___ or buts
- 14 Above
- 15 Ballroom dance
- 16 Boyfriend
- 17 Black, Yellow, Red and Dead
- 18 Sounds familiar
- 20 At the ___ of the day; ultimately
- 21 Has a bug
- 22 Actress Bo
- 23 Boulders
- 25 Promos
- 26 Sleeping pill
- 28 Company
- 31 Pre-Easter periods
- 32 Piano style
- 34 Groove
- 36 Chokes
- 37 Peach or plum
- 38 Actor Jamie ___
- 39 Biggest club
- 40 Broadway's ___

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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turkey moist	27 Tranquillity		
60 Tiny skin hole	28 Trot or canter	38 Unyielding	48 Faucet problem
61 Quarrel	29 Small radio	40 Stickum	49 Smidgen
62 Nervous	30 Sudden	41 Singing pairs	50 Pillar
63 Up in __; irate	increase	43 Agassi's	52 Injure
DOWN	32 Courage;	implement	53 Facial features
	spunk	44 Actor James	55 Org. for Bulls
1 Snout	33 Gallop	46 Gingrich and	and Suns
2 Large kitchen	35 __ on; trampled	his namesakes	56 Actor Aykroyd
appliance	37 Grounies	47 Diminishes	57 Jacuzzi

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Solar plane suspends journey in Hawaii after battery damage

CALEB JONES

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) - A team trying to fly a solar-powered plane around the world said Wednesday it is suspending the journey in Hawaii after the plane suffered battery damage during its record-breaking flight to the islands.

The Solar Impulse team said in a news release that it will continue the attempt to circumnavigate the globe, but irreversible damage caused by overheating batteries has grounded the flight until at least April. The batteries aboard Solar Impulse 2 overheated on the first day of its trip from Japan to Hawaii, and there was no way to cool down the system, the team said. The company says there was no weakness with the technology, but the team didn't anticipate temperature fluctuations associated with rapid altitude changes in a tropical climate.

Pilot Andre Borschberg and his single-seat aircraft landed at Kalaeloa, a small airport outside Honolulu, on July 3. His voyage of nearly 118 hours from Nagoya, Japan, broke the record for the world's longest nonstop solo flight, his team said.



In this July 3, 2015, file photo, ground crew push the Solar Impulse 2, a solar powered airplane, towards the hangar after landing at the Kalaeloa Airport in Kapolei, Hawaii.

Associated Press

Iulu, on July 3. His voyage of nearly 118 hours from Nagoya, Japan, broke the record for the world's longest nonstop solo flight, his team said.

"Solar Impulse is attempting a historic first of flying around the world only on solar energy," the pilots said in a statement. "And while Solar Impulse has completed eight legs, covering nearly half of the journey, setbacks are part of the challenges of a project which is pushing technological boundaries to the limits."

The wings of Solar Impulse 2, which stretch wider than those of a Boeing 747, are equipped with 17,000 solar cells that power propellers

and charge batteries. The plane ran on stored energy at night.

The aircraft took off in March from Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, then made stops in Oman, Myanmar and China. It then made an unplanned stop for nearly a month in Japan after high winds damaged a wing.

The trans-Pacific leg was the riskiest part of the plane's global travels, as there was nowhere for it to land in an emergency.

The plane's ideal flight

speed is about 28 mph, though that can double during the day when the sun's rays are strongest. The carbon-fiber aircraft weighs more than 5,000 pounds, or about as much as a minivan or midsize truck.

The airplane will be housed in a University of Hawaii hangar at the Kalaeloa airport on Oahu while repairs are made. The team says it will also research and test other cooling methods to prevent more overheating. □

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Pluto up close: Spacecraft achieves flyby, then calls home

MARCI DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA's New Horizons spacecraft got humanity's first up-close look at Pluto on Tuesday, sending word of its triumph across 3 billion miles to scientists waiting breathlessly back home.

Confirmation of mission success came 13 hours after the actual flyby and, after a day of both jubilation and tension, allowed the New Horizons team to finally celebrate in full force. "This is a tremendous moment in human history," John Grunsfeld, NASA's science mission chief, said at a news conference.

Principal scientist Alan Stern asked the entire New Horizons team in the audience to stand: "We did it! Take a bow!"

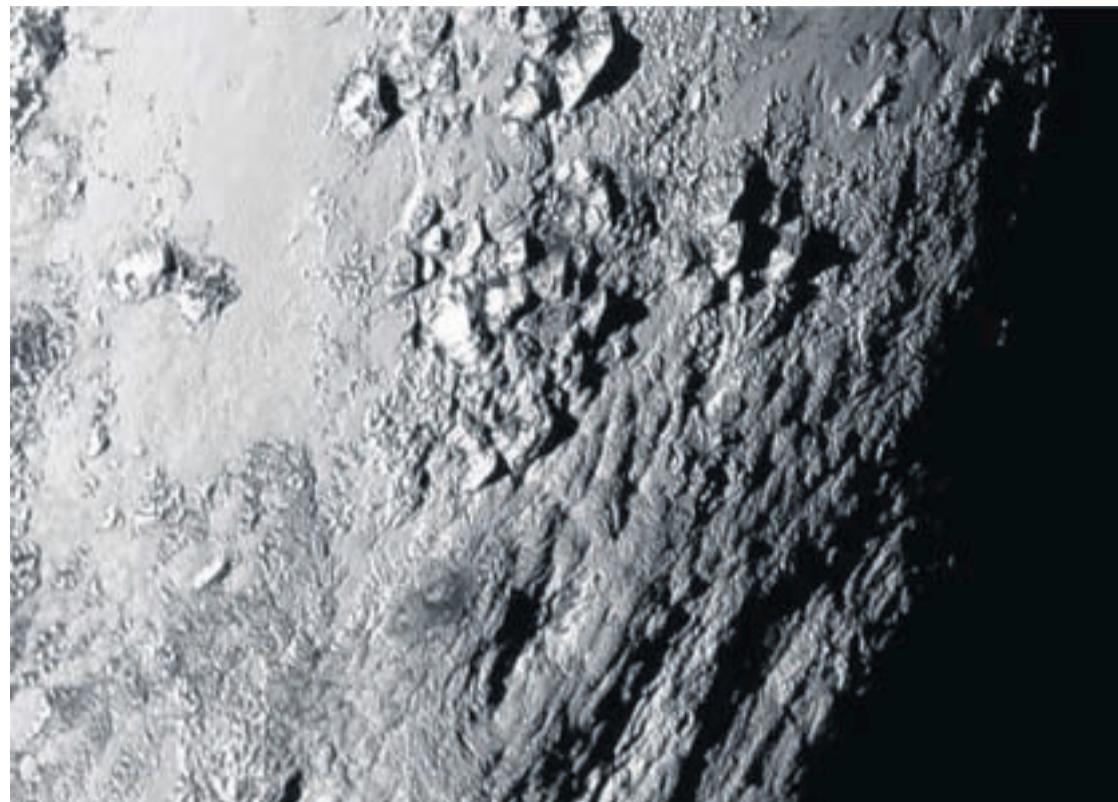
The unprecedented encounter was the last stop on NASA's grand tour of our solar-system's planets over the past half-century. The journey began 9½ years ago, back when Pluto was still considered a full-fledged planet.

Tuesday morning, a cheering, flag-waving celebration swept over the mission operations center in Maryland at the time of closest approach. But until New Horizons phoned home Tuesday night, there was no guarantee the spacecraft had buzzed the small, icy, faraway — but no longer unknown — world.

NASA said the spacecraft — the size of a baby grand piano — swept to within 7,700 miles of Pluto at 31,000 mph. It was programmed to then go past the dwarf planet and begin studying its far side.

To commemorate the moment of closest approach, scientists released the best picture yet of Pluto, taken on the eve of the flyby.

Even better images will start "raining" down on Earth beginning Wednesday, promised principal scientist Alan Stern. But he had cautioned everyone to "stay tuned" until New Horizons contacted home. It takes 4½ hours for signals to travel one-way between New Horizons



This Tuesday, July 14, 2015 image provided by NASA on Wednesday shows a region near Pluto's equator with a range of mountains captured by the New Horizons spacecraft. Associated Press

and Earth. The message went out late in the afternoon during a brief break in the spacecraft's data-gathering frenzy. The New Horizons team kept up a confirmation countdown, noting via Twitter when the signal should have passed the halfway point, then Jupiter's orbit.

The uncertainty added to the drama. "This is true exploration," cautioned Stern, a Southwest Research Institute planetary scientist.

Among the possible dangers: cosmic debris that could destroy the mission. But with the chances of a problem considered ex-



This Monday, July 13, 2015 combination image released by NASA shows Pluto, left, and its moon, Charon, with differences in surface material and features depicted in exaggerated colors made by using different filters on a camera aboard the New Horizons spacecraft. In this composite false-color image, the apparent distance between the two bodies has also been reduced. Associated Press

tremely low, scientists and hundreds of others assembled at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Phys-



This Tuesday, July 14, 2015 image provided by NASA on Wednesday shows Pluto's largest moon, Charon, made by the New Horizons spacecraft. Associated Press

ics Laboratory erupted in jubilation when the mo-

The scene repeated itself a little before 9 p.m. EDT. This time, the flight control room was packed compared with earlier, when it was empty because New Horizons was out of touch and operating on autopilot. "We have a healthy spacecraft," announced mission operations director Alice Bowman. She was drowned out by cheers and applause; Stern ran over to give her a hug.

Later, Grunsfeld told reporters, "The spacecraft is full of images. We can't wait. We've opened up a new realm of the solar system."

Added NASA Administrator Charles Bolden: "What a phenomenal day." Joining in the daylong hoopla were the two chil-

dren of the American astronomer who discovered Pluto in 1930, Clyde Tombaugh. (Some of his ashes are aboard the spacecraft.) Other celestial-minded VIPs included James Christy, discoverer of Pluto's big moon Charon, and Sylvia Kuiper des Tombe, daughter of Dutch-American Gerard Kuiper for whom the mysterious zone surrounding Pluto is named. Some Pluto Children — born Jan. 19, 2006, the very day New Horizons departed Earth — also were in the audience. Throughout the day — coincidentally the 50th anniversary of the first close-up pictures of Mars from Mariner 4 — the White House and Congress offered congratulations, and physicist Stephen Hawking was among the scientists weighing in. President Barack Obama sent his best Tuesday night with a tweet: "Pluto just had its first visitor!" "Hey, people of the world! Are you paying attention?" planetary scientist Carolyn Porco, part of the New Horizons' imaging team, said on Twitter. "We have reached Pluto. We are exploring the hinterlands of the solar system. Rejoice!" The U.S. is now the only nation to visit every planet in the solar system. Pluto was No. 9 in the lineup when New Horizons left Cape Canaveral, Florida, but was demoted seven months later to dwarf status. Scientists in charge of the \$720 million mission hope the new observations will restore Pluto's honor. Stern and other so-called plutophiles posed for the cameras giving nine-fingers-up "Pluto Salute." And in a nod to that other Pluto, a team member carried a yellow stuffed dog on her shoulder Tuesday night.

The picture of Pluto taken Monday showed a frozen, pockmarked world, peach-colored with a heart-shaped bright spot and darker areas around the equator. It drew oohs and aahs. "To see Pluto be revealed just before our eyes, it's just fantastic," said Bowman. □

Lawyer for singers: 'Blurred Lines' copyright fight not over

ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A ruling upholding a copyright infringement verdict against Pharrell Williams, Robin Thicke and rapper T.I. over their hit song "Blurred Lines" will be appealed, a lawyer for the entertainers said.

Attorney Howard King wrote in a statement late Tuesday that the musicians independently created "Blurred Lines," which was 2013's biggest hit song. The men had been sued by Marvin Gaye's children over the song, claiming it copied their father's 1977 hit, "Got to Give It Up."

A jury agreed in March and awarded the family nearly \$7.4 million, but U.S. Dis-



In this Sunday, June 28, 2015 file photo, Robin Thicke performs during a tribute to Smokey Robinson at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

trict Judge John Kronstadt trimmed the verdict to \$5.3 million on Tuesday. He also ruled that Gaye's family

should receive future royalties from "Blurred Lines." Jurors found that T.I., who received songwriting credit and a share of the royalties, did not commit copyright infringement, but Kronstadt ruled Tuesday that other elements of the jury's verdict mean the rapper must be included in the judgment.

"Pharrell, Robin and T.I. in-



In this Saturday, June 27, 2015 file photo, singer Pharrell Williams performs on the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury music festival at Worthy Farm, Glastonbury, England.

Associated Press

dependently created every note and lyric of 'Blurred Lines,'" King wrote. "We look forward to ultimately obtaining appellate confirmation that no one can own a genre or a groove and that composers can be free to be inspired by the works of those creators that came before them." Williams is a 10-time Grammy Award winner whose songs that he's either per-

formed or produced have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide. His hit "Happy" has helped make him a household name, as has his work as a judge on NBC's singing competition show, "The Voice." Williams contended during the trial that he was only trying to mimic the "feel" of Gaye's late 1970s music and insisted he did not use elements of his idol's work. □



In this July 5, 2015 file photo, United States goalkeeper Hope Solo hoists the trophy as she and her teammates celebrate defeating Japan to win the FIFA Women's World Cup soccer championship in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Associated Press

'Kids' Choice Sports' telecast to salute World Cup champs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The "Kids' Choice Sports" awards show is adding a tribute to America's new soccer superstars.

The telecast will open with a celebration of the World Cup champion U.S. women's soccer team. Carli Lloyd, Hope Solo and Alex Morgan are among the players set to appear, the Nickelodeon channel said Wednesday. Other athletes taking part in the 90-minute show include Derek Jeter, Lindsey Vonn and Mo'Ne Davis, the channel said.

The awards, hosted by Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, invited youngsters to vote on which teams and players will get to claim an orange blimp trophy. Music and competition are part of the show's mix.

Nickelodeon's "Kids' Choice Sports" airs at 8 p.m. Eastern on Thursday. □

Armed men ransack Chris Brown's home, lock aunt in closet

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three armed men in masks forced their way into a Los Angeles home owned by Chris Brown, locked the R&B singer's aunt in a closet and then ransacked the place for valuables, police said.

Brown was not at the home during the robbery around 2 a.m. Wednesday, Officer Liliana Preciado said. The suspects got away with an unknown amount of cash, electronics and personal items, she said.

Brown's aunt was not hurt. Police didn't know how long she was in the closet. Detectives were canvassing the neighborhood around the gated property at the end of a secluded street in the San Fernando Valley and looking for surveillance camera footage. "We're trying to see if there's any video evidence that might have picked up the suspects," Lt. Kirk Kelley told reporters at the scene.



This June 28, 2015 file photo Chris Brown arrives at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Investigators have not released descriptions of the suspects, who were armed with handguns and wore bandanas around their faces, police said.

Brown came to the home several hours later to check on his aunt and then left, Preciado said.

A message seeking comment from Brown's representatives were not immediately returned early

Wednesday. Earlier this year, a woman was charged with breaking in to another Los Angeles-area home owned by Brown. Amira Kodcia Ayeb, 21, pleaded not guilty to felony burglary, stalking and vandalism.

Brown won a Grammy for his 2011 album "F.A.M.E." and is known for hit singles like "Run It" and "Look At Me Now." □

Denis Leary plays a rock has-been in his new FX comedy

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For starters, you must understand that Denis Leary is a rock 'n' roll fan. It doesn't take much to get him weighing in on the Clash record that means the most to him ("London Calling") or the merits of John Lennon's final album (loves him, hates it).

But Leary's rock 'n' roll immersion goes much deeper. Decades of his own brand of stardom as an actor and stand-up comic have found him rubbing elbows with rock gods like Mick Jagger and Steven Tyler. And on his stand-up comedy tours, he brings along a band of "real rock 'n' roll musicians and session guys," he says proudly, with whom he performs just for fun.

So he never saw himself as a rock star. But now he's having a blast playing one on his new comedy, "Sex&Drugs&Rock&Roll," for which, as with his previous series, "Rescue Me," he not only serves as leading man but also creator, executive producer and writer (as well as having co-written the songs). It premieres Thursday at 10 p.m. EDT on FX.



In this image released by FX, Denis Leary portrays Johnny Rock in a scene from, "Sex&Drugs&Rock&Roll," premiering Thursday at 10 p.m. EDT on FX.

Leary plays Johnny Rock, leader of a rip-roaring New York band called The Heathens that released one album in the early 1990s, then collapsed in a heap of crazy excesses and ragging egos. The band is notorious for its riotous flash-in-the-pan-ness, while Johnny, now 50, is an unremitting burnout angling for a comeback.

What a moment for a hot

young woman named Gigi (Elizabeth Gillies) to arrive in Johnny's life, revealing herself, much to Johnny's shock, as the 20-year-old daughter he never knew he had, while, much to his excitement, demonstrating she's the fame-seeking singer who can possibly jump-start his career. Gigi's voice is his ticket to persuading The Heathens (played by John Corbett,

Associated Press

John Ales and Bobby Kelly) to reunite, with her as lead vocalist, for Johnny's last chance to get his band on the charts. But all will not go smoothly. Johnny is a protective dad, yet no less competitive and willing to exploit her. And she, no shrinking violet, will stand her ground. Gigi, after all, is his daughter — and he's a rock 'n' roller. That posed more of a chal-

lenge to Leary than expected. Sure, he can summon rock-star looks, even now at 57: In person, he is tall, wiry, radiating energy and sass, with a thatch of great hair.

"But, dude, performing like a REAL rock star was waaaaay harder than I thought," he discovered the night The Heathens in their vintage-'90s incarnation took the stage of Manhattan's Irving Plaza ballroom to shoot "archival" footage of the band back in its prime.

"You take it for granted, whether it's Steven Tyler or Iggy Pop or any other lead singer, how (flipping) cool they look," he tells a reporter visiting his Lower Broadway production office. "They can take control. They take over the stage. They grab the audience's eyes even during the guitar player's solo. Why do you think (Who lead singer) Roger Daltrey started swinging that microphone over his head? Cause otherwise everyone would look at Pete Townshend!"

That's what Leary learned filming full-strength Johnny Rock at that time-capsule concert. And he knew it wasn't something he could keep up every week. □

Seacrest hosts new feel-good show 'Knock Knock Live' on Fox

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ryan Seacrest has noticed a pattern when he knocks on a stranger's door.

"Most men answer the door without a shirt on," he said in a recent interview.

The "American Idol" host picked up on this while preparing for his new game show, "Knock Knock Live," premiering July 21 on Fox (9 p.m. EDT).

"I just went down a street the other night in Los Angeles and tested it," Seacrest said. "It's a little frightening when you walk up to doors because you hear animals and people are, 'Who is it?'"

On his new show, answering a knock on the door could lead to a major surprise.

Seacrest will be in an L.A. studio while a team of helpers like Kellie Pickler and Ross Mathews arrive at the front door of people across the U.S. (Participants can apply to appear on the show or are nominated.) When they answer the door, they're given a challenge. They can win prizes, meet celebrities or have a dream come true.

"Some will get cash, some will get a new car. Some will meet their celebrity crushes. Some will have a random game happen in their front yard or on their

street," Seacrest said. "It really depends on the story, and we've tailored all of our responses to hopefully put a smile on people's faces and change their life a little bit. The fun thing about it, for me, is that this is a live show, so we don't have an idea of what's gonna happen."

Seacrest said the key was finding "great stories."

"It was like, 'Let's find people who are nominated who deserve something special, who are extraordinary people. Maybe they didn't get that promotion, maybe they didn't get that raise, maybe they didn't go to summer camp. We'll step in and help out.'"



Ryan Seacrest participates in the "Knock Knock Live" pop up event outside the News Corporation/Fox Building on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

So far, asking celebrities to participate has been easy. "The celebrities hear the stories, they learn about the people and they know what impact they have

had. That's why they have said, 'I'll agree to do it,'" Seacrest said. "Everyone from David Beckham to Justin Bieber (is) helping us out on this show." □

Farewell FAO Schwarz: Beloved NYC Toy Store Closes



Two "toy soldiers" in bright red coats greet customers in front of the flagship FAO Schwarz toy store on Fifth Avenue in New York, Wednesday, July 15, 2015. The store, probably the best-known toy store in the world, closed Wednesday night. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Hanks danced on a large floor piano there in the movie "Big." Multitudes of children wandered through the aisles, wide-eyed with delight at the giant stuffed animals and other toys. And a fair number of parents winced at some of the price tags.

FAO Schwarz on Fifth Avenue, probably the best-known toy store in the world, closed Wednesday night.

Owner Toys R Us announced the decision in May, citing the high and rising costs of running the 45,000-square-foot retail space on pricey Fifth Avenue. Though the flagship store is closing its doors for good, it may reopen elsewhere in midtown Manhattan.

FAO Schwarz says it is the oldest toy store in the U.S., with a New York City loca-



Ana Assuncao, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, second left, poses for photos with four "toy soldiers" in front of the flagship FAO Schwarz toy store on Fifth Avenue in New York, Wednesday, July 15, 2015. The store, probably the best-known toy store in the world, is closed Wednesday night.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

tion since 1870. Reported celeb sightings — Kim Kardashian and Kanye West before they were

parents! Moms Angelina Jolie, Britney Spears and Victoria Beckham! — have helped fuel the

fantasy since the flagship store opened in 1986. The Fifth Avenue fixture included a candy store,

personal shoppers and three levels of specialty toy departments.

"The baby department at FAO Schwarz is the ultimate destination when luxury shopping for little ones," the store's online fact sheet advised.

When those babies reached 'tweenhood, they'd need specialty skin care products: "It's never too early to start protecting one's natural beauty!"

The store was featured in several movies, including "Big," where Tom Hanks danced on its floor piano (signage called it The Big Piano.)

Nick Jonas stopped by and hopped around the piano in December while singing "Jealous."

Toys R Us of Wayne, New Jersey, has been privately held since 2005. It bought the FAO Schwarz brand in 2009. □